FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PNC MEETING TO BE HELD IN DAMASCUS 15 JAN

JN131755Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1545 GMT 13 Jan 79
JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] will begin its 14th session in Damascus the day after tomorrow. There is a Palestinian and Arab consensus that the council's session is as important as the two previous sessions put together. It is also particularly important owing to the delicate circumstances at this stage, especially the results of As-Sadat's capitulatory line which led to situations that are a challenge to the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation.

This session is held when the council is armed with a political and organization agreement reached among all the factions of the revolution with the aim of putting the Palestinian house in order and strengthening the Palestinian stand against the numerous challenges that surround it. These challenges must be firmly and boldly faced from a strong unionist background that can pool the efforts and energies of the gunbearers among our people in the interest of the struggle, so as to realize our just national aims.

We do not have to repeat that the greatest and most important of the council's tasks in its 14th session is the task of pushing Palestinian national unity some wide steps forward. This is because every Palestinian believes that national unity based on firm grounds and on the independent national decision is the best guarantee for steadfastness and continuity and the most effective weapon to face the big challenges. With this weapon we might avoid the interference of the Arab quarters that always attempt to impose themselves on us. With this weapon we can bypass the big powers that attempt to influence our independent national decision from all quarters.

We say that the unity is important because past experiences and present lessons have taught us the importance and significance of national unity in order to preserve the revolution, develop its efficiency and widen its popular base. The lesson we learned in 1936 teaches us this fact and calls upon us to establish a cohesive and well-planned national unity that will preverve the revolution and prevent those waiting to jump on it from penetrating its great national setup. The lesson we learned in 1948 tells us now, when we are at the doors of the PNC, that the unity of the gunbearers on a background of an independent national decision and a liberated Palestinian will is the strong guarantee against repeating what took place in that dark period when the Palestinian gun disappeared before the illusion of the false Arab guns, and the disaster followed.

Brothers, all the world is looking toward the Palestinians and their coming PNC. Our masses in the occupied homeland, who are the most sincere judge of the results of this great democratic institution, will follow with interest the work of the council. Let us work to make this session an arena of active, aware and responsible work in order to build our Palestinian national unity on a background of an independent national decision. Let us all work to enable this session to come up with a homogeneous Palestinian leadership that will fulfill its great and serious tasks within the framework of the PLO and its political programs. This leadership will lead us during the next stage with all its challenges with awareness, firmness and tact.

Let us work for this. When we put our house in order by raising its pillars, other parts of our house will be set in order, no matter how difficult the task.

Preparations Begun

JN141713Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] will open its 14th session at 1700 tomorrow, Monday, in the conference hall at the General Trade Union Federation building in Damascus. The opening session will be attended by President Hafiz al-Asad. The president will speak to the brothers, the council members.

PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum made a statement to SANA in which he said: The agenda of the council includes a general discussion of the political situation, particularly the new Palestinian developments, the serious results of the two Camp David agreements and the self-rule conspiracy in the West Bank. The council will also discuss the phased political program and the organizational program on which all the resistance groups have agreed in order to put it into the implementation stage. The council will also discuss the PLO budget for next year.

Mr al-Fahum said that all these issues are important and serious. He expressed the hope that the results of the PNC meetings will promote the political and military activities of the Palestinian movement. He said that he hopes that an executive committee will be formed that will include all the Palestinian organizations and forces, as a step on the way to achieving national unity. The PLO Central Council will also be formed during the meetings, he said.

The SANA correspondent said that the number of PNC members is 292, and the council's sessions will continue for 10 days.

Delegations representing the parties and forces of the Arab and friendly countries were invited to attend as observers. On the Arab level, delegations from Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Libya, the PDRY, Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Lebanon and Jordan were invited to the conference.

Delegations representing the socialist countries, Cuba, the DPRK and other friendly countries will also attend.

IRAQI-SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN MEETING HELD IN DAMASCUS

JN131701Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--A tripartite Syrian-Iraqi-Palestinian meeting was held at 1700 today at the Syrian Foreign Ministry premises. Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, and Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad attended the meeting from the Syrian Arab side. Iraqi Revolution Command Council member Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member Sa'dun Shakir, Director of the Palestine Bureau 'Abd al-Husayn al-Muslim, Iraqi Ambassador in Damascus Walid al-Khashabi and Iraqi Ambassador in Beirut Qasim as-Samawi attended the meeting from the Iraqi side. Abu al-Luft, Abu Jihad, Abu Mazin, Abu Mahir, Abu al-Adib, and Abu Hatim attended the meeting from the Palestinian side.

Further on Tripartite Meeting

JN131954Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus--The SANA political editor reports that during the meeting, the conferees discussed issues of joint interest and strategic cohesion to cope with the Camp David plot. They also discussed topics related to helping the Palestinian National Council, which will hold its session in Damascus on Monday, succeed.

They also discussed the strengthening of the Palestinian national unity. The tripartite meeting will be resumed tomorrow afternoon.

Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this evening gave a dinner banquet in honor of Tariq 'Aziz and the delegation accompanying him. The banquet was attended by several officials and members of the Palestinian delegation to the tripartite meeting.

Talks Resume

JN141721Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The Iraqi-Syrian-Palestinian talks resumed at 1700 today in the Foreign Ministry building. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd al-Karim 'Ali, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, minister of information; and Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister. On the Iraqi side, the meetings were attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member; Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member; 'Abd al-Husayn Muslim, chief of the Palestine bureau; and the Iraqi ambassadors in Beirut and Damascus. On the Palestinian side the meetings included Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Abu Jihad, Abu Mazin, Abu Mahir and Abu Hatim.

U.S. CRITICIZED FOR SENDING F-15'S TO SAUDIS

JN132004Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jan 79

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The United States has carried out a new provocation and blatant challenge against the Arab masses and the peoples who are neighbors of the Arab homeland. U.S. imperialism has decided to send a squadron of its F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia in agreement, cooperation and coordination with the reactionary regimes, particularly the oil regimes.

Thus, the reality and the alliances of the reactionaries becomes clear. When the reactionary forces place their services at the disposal of U.S. imperialism and open the doors for the imperialist threat, which is directed against the masses and their revolutionary forces, they only place themselves in their right place and real positions among the enemies of the masses.

One of the main characteristics of imperialism is that when it loses control of things by means of its agents, it resorts to threats, the clatter of weapons and direct military intervention in a desperate attempt to subjugate and intimidate the peoples as well as to delay the overthrow of the regimes linked to it. When it resorts to threatening with force and military intervention, it tries to turn history backward by means of employing old methods that are no longer useful to intimidate the peoples and subjugate them.

Imperialism was the source of peoples' intimidation and anxiety after the Second World War, but today this matter is over. It is over after the great victories achieved by the oppressed peoples and the growth of the revolutionary struggle as compred with the repeated and continuous defeats of imperialism.

Sending fighter planes to our region has no meaning except that it is directed against the Arab masses and the neighbors of the Arab homeland with the aim of reassuring the forces and regimes linked to it.

This reassurance comes after the escalation of the revolutionary struggle and after these hostile forces began to witness the features of a new stage of revolutionary animation that will inevitably reflect itself on the entire Arab situation. This blatant U.S. intervention discloses all the allegations and lies still reiterated by the imperialist forces and reactionary regimes about the so-called security and stability in the region. It is the stability that serves the interests of the imperialists and their following of reactionaries. This intervention also aims at maintaining the ugly exploitation of the wealth of the region.

This imperialist measure should be faced with all methods of confrontation by all the revolutionary, national and pan-Arab forces that are concerned for the future of the region. The least to be done is to expose the reactionary regimes and their connections and to strike against the interests of the imperialists. It is unreasonable that those imperialists and their followers should violate the right of peoples to their self-determination, freedom and future.

Finally we say that threats are no more capable of subjugating the peoples at an age that is known as the age of peoples' victory.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN130812Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee yesterday held a 6-hour meeting in Beirut under brother Abu 'Ammar. The committee discussed the issues and topics included on its agenda.

A long discussion took place concerning the deteriorating situation in southern Lebanon following the mounting Israeli threats and the isolationist forces' attacks on UN positions and posts. The Executive Committee adopted the appropriate measures.

The committee also discussed the PLO delegation's visit to Baghdad and the results of this visit in light of the report submitted by brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi].

The Executive Committee discussed the issues related to the 14th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and reviewed the political, financial, cultural and other reports which the PLO will present to the PNC. The Executive Committee formed several specialized committees to follow up the presentation of these reports to the council, which is scheduled to begin its work on 15 January.

The meetings of the 14th PNC session are scheduled to begin in Damascus on Monday. Council members have been arriving in Damascus during the past 2 days. The Council Secretariat is drafting the various reports to be submitted to the council.

Our radio correspondent in Damascus has learned that brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PNC, will present to the council the document on national unity that was approved by the Higher Committee for National Unity 1 and 1/2 months ago. The document on national unity and the provisional political program has been approved by all the groups of the Palestinian revolution.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER: NO EXTRA OIL AVAILABLE FOR WESTERN STATES

LD141732Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Ad-Dawhah, 14 Jan, KUNA--In an interview with the English language GULF TIMES published today, Qatari Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani said that Qatar cannot possibly increase its oil production to help Western states offset any shortage due to stoppage of exportation of Iranian oil. This is for technical reasons, he said, and because the Qatari oil fields are now producing at full capacity.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES CONTACTS WITH USSR, PRC

LD150950Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 15 January--In a statement to the press published here today, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal categorically denied that contacts or talks have taken place for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the USSR and the PRC. In this statement, made to the newspaper AR-RIYADH, Prince Al-Faysal said that all that has been said about this matter is completely groundless.

Reports about the likelihood of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom and one of the two communist powers or both spread in Arab and foreign capitals following the escalation of troubles in Iran against the shah and the reported disappointment by the Kingdom at the failure of the United States to support its (?friends) in time of need.

AR-RIYADH said that the prince's statement categorically refutes all these reports.

Observers in Riyadh say that the foreign minister's statement has made it absolutely clear that this Islamic state, which is the world's biggest oil exporter, does not contemplate making any changes at all in its traditional policy of not establishing diplomatic relations with the socialist countries--a policy based on its strong hostility to communism.

The Saudi leaders have always made a point of warning against the attempts and plots by the USSR to dominate the Middle East and Africa. These warnings escalated following riots that led to the seizure of power by Marxists in certain countries close to the Gulf, including the PDRY, Ethiopia and Afghanistan, and also following the anti-shah disturbances in Iraq.

CROWN PRINCE, PRIME MINISTER RECEIVE 'ARAFAT

LD142043Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 14 January--Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening.

SNA has learned that discussions during the meeting covered a number of Arab and Islamic issues of interest to both countries headed by the Palestine question.

King Khalid's private adviser Dr Rashad Fir'awn attended the meeting.

'Arafat Comments on Talks

LD151018Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 15 January--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that his talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz were successful.

In a statement to AR-RIYADH, published today, 'Arafat underscored the importance of these talks which took place in the present crucial moments through which the Arab nation is passing.

He added that the meeting which the Palestine National Council will hold this evening in Damascus is the most important to be held by it in view of the nature of the topics to be discussed, foremost of which is the political program which will define the future of the Palestine question and its course and the unification of the administration of activities within the framework of this program.

'Arafat added that the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog has made broad positive strides. The Palestine National Council will discuss this matter and will decide the plan for Palestinian-Jordanian action following the council's meetings.

The coming days, he said, will witness an escalation of the Fedayeen operations inside the occupied Arab territory, and these operations will not stop until the Arab land is liberated and returned to its legitimate owners.

'Arafat Departs Riyadh

LD142045Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1805 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 14 January--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Riyadh this evening at the end of his brief visit to the Kingdom. He was seen off at the airport by Prince Sattam ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the deputy emir of Riyadh province, and a number of officials.

RADIO CITES NEED FOR ARAB-ISLAMIC COHESION

LD132046Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] The Middle East region is witnessing a dramatic escalation of events making it too difficult to predict their outcome. This underlines daily the need for our Arab and Islamic nations to achieve greater cohesion and solidarity. All the signs merging from these events also confirm that for a long time the region will not enjoy stability as it has entered into a framework of ambitions and strategies. The signs also indicate that the possibilities of danger may take various forms and paths, but all agreeing on the realization of one objective, namely the creation of new conditions in the region which drastically turn upside down the balance of power and the equations of security.

All this is happening at a time when the region is trying quietly and calmly to catch its breath, to define more carefully its attitude and to draw up its new plans in order to devote and invest its various energies in a manner which serves its interests, defends its independence and protects its territorial integrity.

It is not difficult for observers to discern the extent of the relationship between the conflicts of the big powers and these conditions of tensions. Nor is it unlikely that these events will lead to the redivision of this world in accordance with strategic interests determined by the ambitions of the big powers and imposed by their aggressive policies.

It would be in vain for the small states to imagine that everything taking place is unconnected to the profit-and-loss account of the biggest two camps which act to threaten the interests of peaceful peoples to ensure their security, safety and interests. If the two camps fail to take into account the lawful rights of the states of the region and behave in accordance with their own selfish interests, they will be committing the grossest error and pursuing the ugliest method to override the peoples of the region in their efforts to attain their long-term objectives, something which is entirely incompatible with matters of sovereignty, mutual respect and the nature of equal relations.

Observers will have to ask the following questions: Why is this happening and what are the dimensions and aims of what is happening? The quick reply is that the big powers have an unjust view of the region and deal with its events according to the logic of gains or losses and take conflicting decisions which depend on the nature of conditions where the darkest clouds prevail. What we should keep in mind, while witnessing these days a series of surprises all over the globe, is the fact that the final decision on questions which most affect the freedom and just rights of peoples are determined by the big powers on the basis of the size of the interest which can be steadily achieved in the new conditions.

If we sufficiently realized the dimensions of the chess game which is being played on the board of the interests of the big powers, we would feel the need to contain many of the contradictions which exist in the region, to join hands and to overcome the phase of schism so that together we might face the dark future which could spell our (?dissolution) if we continued the phase of severe division and discord.

The Arab and Islamic reality represents the greatest area which can be exploited by alien forces to attain long-term objectives after dealing to it a number of blows. It is no secret to say that the attempts by the big powers to exhaust the Arab and Islamic nations have gone a long way and they now find it opportune to exploit this reality in the absence of true strength, the strength of being aware of the dangers of aliens and their plots and the strength of united action to stand up to the many enemies.

While Israel has been the foremost enemy of the Arab and Islamic nations and while the question of the occupation of our holy places and land remains the prime question which has preoccupied us for long, the present danger reveals a widening of this plot which manifested itself on one occasion as a military invasion and on another as economic pressure and yet on another occasion as an incessant threat to sweep across the whole region and seize it.

Continuation of this threat in face of a lack of unified Arab-Islamic action will lead the region to a new historical reality which calls upon us to hasten to shoulder our historic responsibility toward the greatest heritage known in history and left as a trust to the Muslim Arab generations, namely, Islam, and toward strong and great entities in their energies and resources. Otherwise, history will record the failure of this nation to discharge its responsibility at difficult times and to uphold all its rights.

UAE

10-YEAR OIL POLICY PAPER SENT TO OAPEC

JN131808Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 January--The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources has sent OAPEC a working paper containing the UAE viewpoint regarding the topics scheduled to be submitted to the first energy conference. The paper was sent after its final formula had been prepared by a special committee. The working paper explains the policy the UAE will follow in oil production during the next 10 years and the size of its contribution to providing for world oil consumption. The paper also deals with the energy policies and their future needs in the long-range plans for economic development. It is noteworthy that the first energy conference, which is organized by OAPEC in cooperation with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, will be held in Abu Dhabi in March.

REPRESENTATIVE TO PNC MEETING DEPARTS FOR DAMASCUS

JN141342Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1250 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 January--Hamad Abu Shihab, vice chairman of the Federal National Assembly, left Abu Dhabi today for Damascus to attend the opening session of the Palestine National Council [PNC], due to open in Damascus tomorrow. Abu Shihab will then visit Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan and the countries of the Arab Maghreb. He will hold talks with speakers of the national assemblies in those countries and will review preparations for the forthcoming session of the Arab parliamentary federation to be held in Abu Dhabi next month.

YEMEN--PDRY

DNF: U.S. EXPERTS 'SUPERVISING' BATTLES IN YAR

LD132249Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] The radio of the Democratic National Front [DNF] in the northern part of the homeland reports that four U.S. experts supervised battles last week in the (ash-Shariq) area between the armed revolutionary people's forces and the forces of the San'a' agent authority. It says that the experts arrived in the area by helicopter.

The DNF radio also reports that agents of the authority have received automatic guns and money to distribute to mercenaries. The San'a' regime's intelligence is pushing large numbers of its elements into (as-Saribah), (Mayah), (al-Waziiyyah), (al-Maghalis), al-Mukha Hajjam and ar-Rahidah to give citizens the impression that they are arriving to surrender themselves to the authority under the pretext that they are saboteurs. [sentence as heard].

YEMEN--YAR

SUPPORT OF ANTI-PDRY FORCES AFFIRMED IN COMMENTARY

JN121948Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jan 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A large section of our people in the southern part of the homeland are currently waging fierce battles against the regime of the agent, criminal and treasonous clique under 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the dishonest secretary and the untrustworthy president, in a number of regions in the second, third and fourth governorates. This is their legitimate right because our people there have suffered more than any other people in history.

Some of the groups of the armed forces and security forces in the south have also begun their rebellion against the authorities of terror, agentry and plots, thus responding to the legitimate struggle waged by the section of our people there. This is their duty and it is the duty of their comrades in arms whether they are from the army or from the security forces. This is their duty because to connive with the tyrants is a crime against religion and patriotism. Morals and conventions are against such connivance. Who commits such a crime must pay the price of his deed. The prophet, blessings of God be upon him, said: He who supports a tyrant shall fall under the tyrant's oppression. Oppression must not be allowed to pass and the rule of crime and oppression must not be allowed.

This is a crime against the national rights because it means that the tyrants can continue their tyranny, the criminals their crimes and the agents their agentry.

Our brothers in the armed forces and the security forces in the south, or better yet, those who are still in their jobs, know what has befallen other colleagues who had been with them. They know how some of their colleagues were physically liquidated and how thousands were expelled from their work, how some of them were arrested, and some fled. If our brothers in the armed forces and the security forces become lenient in saving the citizens from the oppression of the clique and from its terror they will be awaiting their turn whether to death, expulsion, prison and detention camps or exile and deportation.

The darkness over our beloved south has been too long. The plight of our people and their tragedy has deepened. Unless the patriotic pioneers awaken and shoulder their responsibilities and unless they save their brothers, no one will deliver the people and the country. God will not help those who do not help themselves.

We are certain that our brothers in the south who dealt many blows and defeats to the foreign occupation forces and succeeded in expelling them from that part of our dear homeland are able today to liberate our south from the control of the agents and fascists under the dishonest secretary and the hireling President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

We in the northern part of the homeland are achieving victories and gains and continue our march on the way to progress and construction with firm steps under our leader and honest President Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Our brothers in the southern part of the homeland must be assured that we will share with them all our successes when the south is liberated and the unity between the south and north becomes possible within a unified Yemeni state ruled by democracy, justice and prosperity. There will be no south and north. There will be one Yemen--an Arab and Muslim Yemen, a strong and proud Yemen. Surely this will be achieved because this is the will of our people. The will of the people is invincible. God is great. There is no rule but for the people.

GHALI SAYS ATHERTON, HANSELL TO ARRIVE 15 or 16 JAN

NC141816Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1756 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 14 January--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East Alfred Atherton will arrive in Cairo tomorrow or the next day.

In a statement to the MENA Khartoum correspondent, Dr Ghali said that Atherton will visit Egypt within the context of the U.S. move aimed at bringing about a resumption of the negotiations for peace in the Middle East.

State Department Legal Adviser Herbert Hansell will accompany Atherton on his Middle East tour.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL INTERVIEWED ON PEACE TALKS

NC130938Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 January--Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has expressed his belief that Egypt is not responsible for the stumbling of the peace negotiations with Israel because Egypt has actually responded to its commitments.

In an interview published by AKHABAR AL-YAWM today, Dr Mustafa Khalil says that his recent letter to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance includes some proposals to overcome the existing difficulties in order to resume the discussions. He adds that he left it to the U.S. secretary of state to accept these proposals or amend them as he sees fit to overcome the present difficulties.

On the other hand, the Egyptian prime minister attributes most of his country's problems to the vestiges of the past 30 years of war with Israel. He says: We have been compelled to borrow. Our debts to the outside world amount to 12 billion pounds, including 4 billion pounds in military debts. Moreover, Egypt has sustained losses amounting to 16 billion pounds due to wars.

Khalil adds: Egypt has suffered a double loss. It suffered one loss as a result of the wars and debts and another loss as a result of not being able to invest these billions in development, which would bring in revenues and increase income. He also says: Our new position under a comprehensive peace in the area puts us in a better situation and prompts us to decide to solve our problems and agree on a correct and sound course to tackle these problems and not complicate them further.

AS-SIYASI on Talks

NC140712Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 January--AS-SIYASI today reports that should the intensive contacts with Egypt and Israel fail, the United States will invite experts of both countries to meet in an attempt to eliminate the difficulties. This will be followed by a meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state to discuss the most complex subjects, such as the letters related to the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The paper says that U.S. President Jimmy Carter will invite President as-Sadat and Menachem Begin to a new summit if these meetings do not bring about an acceptable formula.

RADIO COMMENTS ON RECENT DAYAN, BEGIN STATEMENTS

NC141434Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "Israeli Policy Cannot Maintain Its Hesitation Forever"]

[Excerpts] Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said yesterday that he was not certain that a peace agreement will be concluded with Egypt, although he wholeheartedly wants such an agreement.

In an attempt to justify his sudden pessimism, Dayan said that big obstacles still exist and that Egypt has hardened its position because of events in other areas in the region. He went even further when he said that the recent difficulties regarding Iranian oil imports must make Israel more cautious regarding the limited quantities still available to it, as well as more cautious on the Sinai oil.

These statements by Dayan come only days after the statements by his prime minister Menachem Begin in which he tried to sound optimistic when he told a British Conservative Party delegation that the Middle East peace negotiations should be resumed in the near future, and that the present crisis in the peace negotiations does not call for pessimism because both Egypt and Israel have decided to resume the negotiations.

Begin also said officially that Israel considers the Camp David agreements to be binding and that Israel will fully honor them.

Dayan's pessimism about the possibility of achieving a peace agreement with Egypt is justifiable only if Israel intends to dissociate itself from its commitments at Camp David.

Dayan also said in his statements that President as-Sadat does not want to sign a separate agreement with Israel. It is as if he wants to say that Egypt's insistence on a link between an Egyptian-Israeli agreement and agreement on the future of the West Bank and Gaza is what really makes him pessimistic.

The letter and spirit of the Camp David agreements totally and clearly show that comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, not merely an Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, should be the aim of the peace process.

This apparent conflict between the Dayan and Begin statements reflects the truth about the Israeli Government's position, which is one of hesitation regarding a comprehensive peaceful settlement.

Among the Israeli Government's actions that contradict the commitment to peaceful settlement and serious work is its recent approval of the principle of continued Israeli settlement on the West Bank. This is an addition to the Israeli Government's intransigent position on linkage between the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and the future of the West Bank and Gaza on Egypt's Arab commitments, and on its request for preferential treatment when it comes to the Egyptian oil of Sinai.

Whatever the reasons for this Israeli hesitation on a comprehensive peaceful settlement, they do not make us less confident that a just peace insuring the return of all Arab territories shall ultimately prevail.

The recent events in the world make peace between the Arabs and Israel even more urgent. In Israel itself, the opposition to some of the government's actions adversely affecting the peace process confirms that the Israeli hesitation cannot be maintained for long. It also confirms that in the end, Israel must go all the way to achieve peace in response to local and international pressure as well as to the Middle East peoples' aspiration to and interest in a just and lasting peace that will give security and prosperity to all.

AL-JUMHURIYAH DISCUSSES PEACE MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL

NC150720Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH today comments on the demonstrations that have been staged by the Israeli peace group. The paper draws attention to the fact that these demonstrations reveal the reality of what is taking place in Israel a year after the Egyptian peace initiative.

The paper says that the slogans "Peace Does Not Frighten and "Peace Is Better Than the Land," which the demonstrators have raised, sum up the essence of the change that has occurred in Israeli society during the last year. The paper confirms that this attitude toward the question of peace is not new to the Israeli mentality. It says: There have always been political forces that believed in peace and preferred permanent peace to expansion and gaining lands by force. However, they were weak, with limited influence on Israeli public opinion.

AL-JUMHURIYAH further says: What is new in Israel is that a strong political movement embracing 250,000 Israelis, 20 opposition members in the Knesset and some former senior army officers has been formed. This movement has taken to the streets advocating the resumption of the peace negotiations with Egypt and a halt to the establishment of settlements in the West Bank. It is also attacking Menahem Begin's policy, which obstructs the peace efforts.

In conclusion, the paper says: The emergence of the "Peace Now" movement in Israel is one of the important marks the historic peace initiative left on the map of Israeli society. The paper stresses that the antipeace forces in Israel will not be able to resist the sweeping current set in motion by As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL LEAVES FOR KHARTOUM 12 JAN

NC121933Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil left Cairo for Khartoum this afternoon to attend the meetings of the Higher Ministerial Committee on Integration Between Egypt and Sudan. The committee meetings will begin tomorrow.

Before leaving Cairo airport, Dr Mustafa Khalil stated that at its meeting, the committee will discuss projects aimed at achieving political, economic and social integration between Egypt and Sudan. He said that a joint statement would be signed on Monday.

The prime minister added that President Anwar as-Sadat and President Ja'far Numayri would attend the first joint session of the Egyptian and Sudanese People's Assemblies, which will begin on 20 January.

Eng 'Abd al-Hadi Samahah, delegation member, minister of irrigation and minister of state for affairs of Sudan, has stated that the meetings of the Higher Ministerial Committee on Integration will merely assess the projects that have been implemented on sound economic bases and the achievements since the Charter for Political, Economic and Integration Action was announced in 1974.

The minister of irrigation and minister of state for affairs of Sudan added that the committee will also discuss the various activities aimed at achieving prosperity for both peoples and realizing the hope of unity, which will be a model for the Arab and African peoples.

Seven ministers who are members of this committee left on the same plane with Dr Mustafa Khalil. They are: Dr 'Ali Lutfi, finance minister; Dr Mamduh Jabr, health minister; Eng 'Ali ad-Daghistani, minister of transport and communications; Eng Ibrahim 'Atallah, minister of industry; Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman Bisar, minister of Awqaf and minister of state for Al-Azhar affairs; and 'Abd al-Akhir 'Umar 'Abd al-Akhir, minister of state for People's Assembly affairs.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES PARTY OFFICIALS, INSPECTS LAND PROJECTS

NC132040Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat today met with Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, National Democratic Party [NDP] liaison officer for the Governorate of Alexandria. In his capacity as leader of the party, President as-Sadat assigned Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah to the post of party secretary for Alexandria Governorate.

President as-Sadat held another meeting with Engineer Ahmad 'Abd al-Akhir, director of the presidential office for NDP affairs; Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, party secretary for Alexandria; and Yusuf Makkawi, party liaison officer for upper Egypt. Engineer Ahmad 'Abd al-Akhir has stated that President as-Sadat has decided that the party secretaries in the governorates must not be members of the People's Assembly or ministers. This is to give them ample time to devote to solving the problems of the masses, now that all the central powers have been delegated to the provinces.

Addresses Rally

NC141640Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat today inspected the new land development areas and agricultural projects in (Questul) and (Arindan) in the new Nubah area, which has 8,000 feddans of arable land.

The president inspected the experimental farm in the (Qustul) area, which is a 100-feddan farm. He heard a report from the officials in charge about the farm and the next phases.

At the end of the visit, the president attended a popular rally held on the farm, which was also attended by Presidential Assistant Sayyid Mar'i, Food Security Projects Supervisor Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, Reconstruction Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, Land Reclamation Minister Muhammad Sharaqah, and Aswan Governor Ahmad Taha.

Addressing the rally, President as-Sadat said he was very happy to see the first fruit of the people's efforts, sincerity and maturity. He added: This area was a desert. Now vegetables have grown on it. Those who have accomplished this have set an example to their brothers in Egypt in making efforts and in self-satisfaction.

He said that the first stage, which has already started, is an experimental one. He added that all means will be made available to the small model villages so that the Egyptian man will be able to work and produce.

He also said that the land will not be cultivated by companies, as was the case with At-Tahrir Directorate. The Egyptians who come to this area will be the ones to cultivate it, he said, and the Land Reclamation Ministry plans to provide water and transport.

The president added: Work will not be restricted to the people of Nubah, but will extend to all the people of the Nile Valley. What they are required to do, he said, is to come out and prove themselves.

The president asserted that all he wants is work and efforts now that every governorate has complete powers to solve the problems of the masses.

In conclusion, President as-Sadat said he had decided to reduce the travel fare to Aswan for the people of Nubah by 50 percent, and that he will study the possibility of running a weekly flight from the area. He also contributed 20,000 pounds from the presidency's funds to the Nubah Integration Society, and said that the Aswan governor will pay 100 pounds to [each of] the Nubah people working in the (Qustul) and (Arindan) areas. He added that the Land Reclamation Ministry will supply the area with a tractor. The president also decided to give ownership of reclaimed land to the people of the area.

ELECTRONIC ACCELERATOR TO BE OBTAINED FROM UNITED STATES

NC150855Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0758 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 January--AL-AHRAM reports today that in March Egypt will obtain a radioactive apparatus called an electronic accelerator, which has been manufactured in the United States for Egypt and financed by the United Nations.

Quoting a statement by the Radiation Technology Center director, Dr Hamid Rushdi, the paper says that the apparatus, which costs $600,000, has a maximum capacity of 1.5 million volts and is used in modifying and refining industrial materials such as textiles, rubber and paints.

Dr Hamid Rushdi said that the apparatus will be installed in the Radiation Technology Center in Nasr City in Cairo and used for industrial purposes.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE GIVES MORE POWERS TO GOVERNORS

NC111550Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jan 79 NC

[Text] A presidential decree has been issued delegating some of the jurisdictions of the president of the republic to the governors and amending some provisions of the executive bill of the local government law. The decree defines the jurisdictions of the governors as the representatives of the president of the republic in the governorates. It also defines their jurisdictions regarding all workers in the governorate.

The decree also includes two fundamental amendments. The first authorizes local government units to establish a department of general utilities that has direct links with local affairs falling within its domain. The second amendment grants the governors all executive powers given to the ministers in laws on public utilities that are directly related to local affairs. These powers are granted within the limits of the state's general plan.

VICE PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM PARIS, COMMENTS ON TALKS

JN121850Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 January--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and the delegation accompanying him returned here from Paris this evening following an official 4-day visit to France during which he held talks with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Premier Raymond Barre. He also conveyed greetings from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and their wishes to the friendly French people for further progress and prosperity.

In a statement to INA, Mr Ma'ruf said that his visit to France, which came within the framework of the friendly relations between Iraq and France, was successful. There was renewed determination to diversify ways and means to strengthen relations between the two countries. These relations are considered ideal in international dealing because they are based on mutual respect, joint understanding and positive and constructive co-operation in the interest of the two countries and peoples. They consolidate Arab-French relations and serve the issues of world peace and security.

The vice president added that the detailed discussions he held with the French president and the French premier dealt with bilateral relations and Arab and international issues. They were characterized by great understanding of the unity of the Arab homeland and Iraq's persistent efforts to bring about this unity. The talks also showed appreciation for the efforts exerted by Iraq to unify Arab ranks within the framework of the ninth Arab Summit Conference and the Charter for Joint National Action between Iraq and Syria. This charter realizes a pan-Arab aspiration and seeks to establish security, stability and progress in the area.

Mr Ma'ruf pointed out that France looks forward to deepening these relations and values Iraq's independent stand and responsible role in bringing about Arab solidarity.

The vice president said that he is carrying greetings from the French president and the French premier to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

Mr Ma'ruf concluded his statement by saying that the visit was successful and beneficial. It contributed to strengthening and deepening Iraqi-French relations and created an atmosphere of confidence and understanding of Arab and international issues. It was also a genuine reflection of Iraq's rising status on the Arab and international levels.

The delegation accompanying the vice president was made up of Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolution Command Council and trade minister, Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi; Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Latif Nasif Jasim; Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi; Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali; and a number of officials.

PAPER CRITICIZES VISIT OF U.S. PLANES TO SAUDI ARABIA

JN150946Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0856 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 15 January--In an editorial today, the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says that the U.S. objective behind sending a squadron of F-15 planes to Saudi Arabia is to create a situation leading to Arab differences and disputing Arab blocs. The paper explains that the U.S. decision to send the planes to Saudi Arabia is part of the rehabilitation of U.S. policy in the area in the manner that will allow the United States to be present in the area on the level and in the way it wants.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: We view this visiting squadron as a real provocation to the area and cover for intervention which might assume military form in practice, open the door to imperialist and Zionist influence, impose hegemony, and cause gaps in the Arab position in the interest of aggressive objectives. The U.S. and Zionist circles are working with various means to create the circumstances and conditions for neutralizing the effectiveness of the resolutions adopted by the Baghdad summit conference and to prepare the way for causing Arab division into blocks in order to weaken the capability of the Arab nation in confronting the great challenges.

The paper points out that the U.S. attempt might be a beginning encouraging other Arab countries to make the same request, namely, the visit of a squadron of planes or military units in order to make the U.S. military presence in the area a conventional presence. ATH-THAWRAH explains: The aim of the U.S. dispatch of a squadron of F-15 planes to Saudi Arabia is not to station effective U.S. weapons near Iran, because U.S. weapons and experts are still in Iran and there are U.S. bases near Iran in the Indian Ocean.

The paper says that the United States has not lost hope in its ability to influence events from within Iran, although it is searching for various means outside Iran to influence events in Iran in a stronger manner. Discussing the situation in Iran, the paper says: Iraq has adopted a clear and frank stand toward Iran and Turkey as two neighboring countries. The paper affirms that Iraq's stand is based on respect for the sovereignty of the two neighbors and will refrain from intervention in their internal affairs. The paper asserts that Iraq will continue to follow this policy as long as Iran and Turkey continue to act according to the same policy.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS

JN130940Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 13 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 January--An Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member, left this morning for Damascus on a visit to Syria during which it will attend the meetings of the Palestine National Council scheduled to begin there on Monday. The delegation is made up of Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party regional command and 'Abd al-Husayn Musallam, director of the Palestine and armed struggle office at the Ba'th Party national command. Sa'dun Shakir will also head an Iraqi national security delegation for talks with officials in fraternal Syria on coordination and cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of national security in light of the Joint National Action Charter.

DEFENSE MINISTER LEAVES FOR DAMASCUS, MAKES STATEMENT

JN150751Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0736 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 January--Revolution Command Council member and Defense Minister Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah left for Damascus this morning to head the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Military Cooperation Committee stemming from the supreme political body of the Joint National Action Charter between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Iraq. The Iraqi side in the committee includes Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and the chief of the general staff of the armed forces. General Khayrallah said that the visit is in line with the goals of the Joint National Action Charter between the two fraternal countries, which are linked by ties of comradeship in arms, unity of fate and unification of stands toward the fateful issues of our nation. He added that during its meetings, the committee will discuss ways to achieve joint coordination in unity of the armed forces in terms of organization and ideology to shoulder the burdens of the current phase.

KING HUSAYN CALLS FOR EXPANDED NEGOTIATIONS UNDER UN AUSPICES

JN121632Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations will never settle the Middle East problem. In a statement to the New York TIMES today, his majesty hoped that expanded negotiations would begin as soon as possible under the auspices of the UN Security Council.

His Majesty King Husayn added that President As-Sadat can join Arab consensus, if he so wishes, so that the Arabs will be able to negotiate from a unified position of solidarity. His majesty said that the Arab world is one family and that Jordan has no interest in joining the current negotiations to set an interim period prior to the establishment of Palestinian autonomy in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Referring to the subject of Camp David, his majesty said that the role which Jordan is being asked to play at Camp David is to protect the Israelis from the Palestinian citizens in the occupied Arab territories.

His Majesty King Husayn proposed the return of all the parties to the conflict to the UN Security Council to search for clarifications of UN Security Council Resolution No 242.

PAPERS COMMENT ON KING HUSAYN'S INTERVIEW TO NEW YORK TIMES

JN130935Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "No to the Mirage, Yes to Peace," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says that to remove the slightest doubts which still may be lingering in the minds of the Camp David parties about the possibility of Jordan participating in their obscure and tortuous march, His Majesty King Husayn wanted to cut this hope short by using clear phrases.

In an interview with the New York TIMES, his majesty stated that the Israeli-Egyptian talks will never achieve a settlement to the Middle East conflict and that Jordan will never agree to be the police which will protect the Israelis from the Palestinians who are living under the yoke of occupation. The Camp David parties expected Jordan to play this role, but Jordan has categorically refused to do this. His Majesty King Husayn's reaffirmation of Jordan's position in such a strong and firm manner again stresses Jordan's commitment to the Baghdad summit resolutions and Jordan's loyalty to the Palestinian cause to which it is closely related and for which it has been working and offering sacrifices whenever possible. We must stress that this honorable position does not contradict Jordan's desire to keep the door open to the peace efforts. However, this door does not lead to the tortuous Camp Daivd march, but to the spacious international arena where there is a real opportunity to work for our cause and act seriously to settle it within the framework of the international resolutions adopted on this subject.

Thus his majesty has submitted a positive alternative to the Egyptian-Israeli talks which are shrouded in fog and obscurity. His majesty has called for holding expanded negotiations in which the Arab family, including Egypt, could participate under the umbrella of the UN Security Council. This constructive invitation demonstrates frankly and seriously a real concern for adopting a sound path to peace, a path which differs completely from the Camp David march which is nothing more than running after a mirage.

Under the headline "A Sincere and Loyal Perception," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says that his majesty's call for Egypt to return to the Arab ranks is a sincere and loyal call, and stems from his majesty's conviction that bilateral negotiations will never achieve a settlement to the Middle East conflict.

His majesty's call must be welcomed on the Arab and international level because the current bilateral negotiations are only postponing the inevitable explosion as long as Israel continues to cling to its intransigent position toward the Palestinian people's rights and the future of the occupied Arab territories.

Therefore, pan-Arab requirements dictate the return of Egypt to Arab unanimity to avoid the big dangers which threaten the Arab world. Signs of these dangers are beginning to appear in more than one place and have the aim of weakening the Arabs and dividing their ranks in preparation for legalizing the Zionist aggressive presence in the heart of the Arab homeland at the expense of the Arabs.

AMMAN AR-RA'Y: PLO DELEGATION UNDER QADDUMI TO VISIT JORDAN

JN140858Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Jan 79 pp 1, 11 JN

[By Nasr al-Majali]

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, Chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stated that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog will enter an important phase in the next 2 weeks.

In a brief statement to AR-RA'Y after his meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Al-Fahum said that Faruq Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf), head of the PLO Political Department, will pay an official visit to Jordan at the head of a large political delegation immediately after the conclusion of the PNC meetings to begin a political dialog with the Jordanian Government.

Al-Fahum stressed that this dialog will have important ramifications and effects on the process to unite the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in the current phase of confronting the capitulatory conspiracies against the Palestine question.

Al-Fahum again announced that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, will visit Jordan after the visit of the Palestinian political delegation headed by Faruq Qaddumi.

Asked about the recurring reports in the media about the possibility of arguments among the various resistance groups, especially during the PNC meetings which are due to begin tomorrow in the Syrian capital, Al-Fahum said that arguments are bound to happen but that they will have a positive effect on the council meetings and its resolutions. These arguments, he said, will not reach the level of a clash as some people expect. The council meetings will be a dialog among "comrades in arms," al-Fahum added.

Regarding his meeting with Prime Minister Badran yesterday, Al-Fahum said that the PLO and the PNC highly appreciate Jordan's position on the current situation. He added: I discussed with the prime minister certain topics dealing with the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog and the resumption of this dialog soon on the political level.

Regarding the invitations to attend the PNC meetings, Al-Fahum said that invitations have been sent to Jordanian and Arab personalities, but not to governments, because the council is a popular institution.

Al-Fahum expressed the hope that an objective dialog would permeate the PNC meetings and that the council resolutions would be compatible with the current difficult phase.

LEBANESE FORCES COMMAND REPORTS SYRIAN SHELLING

NC131550Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Statement issued at 1500 GMT today by the official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command--read by announcer]

[Text] At 1415 today, Saturday, 13 January, the Syrian forces unexpectedly kindled the security situation by directing its artillery fire at residential areas and streets crowded with civilians. Meanwhile, all the units of the Lebanese forces continued to abide by the cease-fire orders on all fronts.

The Syrian forces used 122-mm field guns, 120-mm and 160-mm mortars, and the guns of their 360-type tanks, which are positioned in Dahr al-Jamal in Sinn al-Fil. As-Sufi, Karm az-Zaytun, As-Siryan Quarter, Hotel Dieu Hospital and all the quarters of the southern suburb extending from Badaru, Furn ash-Shubbak, Ash-Shiyah, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Al-'Adliyah to At-Tahwitah, were the targets of the Syrian shelling.

The barbaric shelling has resulted in the death of 11 civilians, including 3 children and 1 woman, and the wounding of 47 others. Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon at 0615 GMT on 14 January notes that "the number of victims of the massacre committed suddenly by the Syrian forces against the residential areas yesterday afternoon rose this morning to 20 dead and 72 wounded, some of whom are in dangerous condition. A number of the wounded died last night."

The spokesman added that the Syrian forces, by this sudden escalation, aim:

1. At exerting pressure during the discussions the prime minister is holding in Damascus today.

2. At provoking the Lebanese Army, since many of the shells were directed and fell near the army barrier at the Justice Palace traffic circle.

3. At attempting to abort the measures taken by the Lebanese Forces Command to reactivate some aspects of normal life in the southern suburb, as part of the strategy of confrontation.

The Syrian shelling of all the above-mentioned areas was continuing at the time this statement was issued.

ADF Communique on Incident

NC131510Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[13 January communique by the Arab Deterrent Forces Command]

[Text] At 1300 today, personnel of an Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] checkpoint detained Antoine Sa'id Nasr for interrogation in connection with security matters. When the news of his detention reached his colleagues--militiamen belonging to a party in the eastern area of Beirut--his colleagues set up an armed barrier near the children's hospital opposite the museum at the beginning of An-Nahr Corniche. The armed colleagues then opened fire on civilian pedestrians and vegetable peddlers at the beginning of Fu'ad al-Awal Street near the museum, killing Muhammad Hashim and slightly wounding Subhi Sa'd, Kamal Ayyub, Marun Bulus, Fatimah Zahr and Michel Gazzi, who were all taken to hospitals.

The museum road was cut off for a short time. Normal traffic resumed on the road after the ADF intervened in coordination with the internal security forces and dealt with the situation in the appropriate manner.

Second ADF Communique on Incident

NC1319417 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Second communique issued by Arab Deterrent Forces Command on 13 January]

[Text] As a followup to the ADF Command's communique of 1600 today on the sudden kindling of the security situation by the militias in the museum area, which resulted in the death of one civilian and the wounding of five others, the ADF Command announces that the armed militiamen at 1430 shifted their sniper fire in the direction of the ADF units and positions in At-Tayyunah, Galerie Sim'an and Dahr al-Jamal. They later escalated their fire by using mortars and rockets. This led to the martyrdom of one soldier and the wounding of two others in At-Tayyunah position at 1450. The ADF which had been strictly adhering to the cease-fire and had not fired a single shot in reply to the criminal sniper fire directed at the civilians in the museum area, were compelled to return the fire with mortars and tank guns, silencing the sources of fire at 1700 today.

The ADF Command again warns the armed militiamen that in the future it will not abide by the cease-fire when its forces or the peaceful citizens are fired upon. It hopes that everybody will respond to this warning in order to bring about the successful implementation of the security measures adopted by the state at the beginning of this month with a view to reopening the schools, reactivating the establishments, returning the evacuees to their homes and providing an opportunity to achieve detente and radical political solutions.

Rightists Respond to ADF Communique

NC1321097 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Statement issued at 1900 GMT 13 January by the official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command]

[Text] it is regrettable that the Syrian forces--pursuing every aggression possible against innocent people--use the name of the Arab Deterrent Forces so as to involve the other sisterly forces serving with the ADF in an abortive attempt to cover up their savage acts. Moreover, the second communique issued today by the ADF Command strongly incriminates the Syrian forces and exposes their intentions. This communique said that in the future these forces will not abide by the cease-fire. The Lebanese Forces Command draws the attention of the world public opinion to what the Syrian forces are concocting against the Lebanese people.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS LEAVES FOR DAMASCUS

NC1308147 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left Beirut for Damascus this morning for a working visit, during which he will meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and senior officials of the Syrian Government. Dr al-Huss is accompanied by Director General of Public Relations and Protocol 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykha.

Returns Home 13 Jan

NC131833Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has just arrived back from Damascus after a 3.5-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior officials. Our correspondent has sent us the following recording of the statement made by Prime Minister al-Huss after the meeting:

[Begin recording] My talks with his excellency, President Hafiz al-Asad, dealt with three main subjects. The first subject was that of the south and the stand Lebanon has taken to confront the dangers threatening the south in view of the well-known developments that are taking place there and also in view of the fact that the subject is before the UN Security Council. His excellency, President al-Asad, emphasized to me that Syria is prepared to support Lebanon in any stand it adopts on this issue.

The second subject dealt with during the talks was that of the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions, which we are completely committed to implement. I reviewed with the president the difficulties we are encountering in implementing some of the clauses of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions. An assessment was made of the steps and methods that can be adopted to eliminate these difficulties. Some specific views were presented on the subject. We hope that these views will have positive results in the near future.

The third subject was related to the general political situation in the country in light of the government statement presented during the Chamber of Deputies debate on the measures it has taken to implement the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions. We believe that the roots of the Lebanese crisis are political, and therefore a comprehensive political solution must be reached to turn security into general stability and calm into general peace in Lebanon. [end recording]

SOVIET AMBASSADOR MEETS SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC121300Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 79 NC

[Text] At 1100 today, President Ilyas Sarkis met with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov. After the meeting, which lasted until 1220, the ambassador answered questions from reporters.

Asked about the nature of his meeting with President Sarkis, the Soviet ambassador said: The meeting with President Sarkis was good, as was the atmosphere. I thank President Sarkis for the meeting and the time he spared for us. We exchanged views on the situation in Lebanon.

Asked whether the talks dealt with the situation in southern Lebanon, the Soviet ambassador said: We reviewed all matters of mutual interest.

Asked if the Soviet Union is satisfied with the current situation in southern Lebanon, the ambassador said: The Soviet Union is not satisfied with the situation in southern Lebanon. We strongly denounce all the aggressive acts by Israel.

Asked what the Soviet Union could do to eliminate the deteriorating situation in southern Lebanon, Ambassador Soldatov said: We strongly support Lebanon at the United Nations and in the Security Council and we denounce the Israeli aggression, which took place last March, and the current Israeli acts of aggression.

Asked whether the Soviet Union supports the renewal of the UN Emergency Forces' mandate in southern Lebanon for another 6 months, the ambassador said: We must wait until the Security Council meets. We will then see the position of the Soviet Union. In any case, we fully support the Lebanese Government's position on the subject.

Asked whether the Soviet Union expects an early solution of the Middle East question following the current developments in the area, the Soviet ambassador said: The Middle East question is a big issue. We believe that the consolidation of unity among the Arabs will contribute to the struggle against Israeli aggression and to solving the Middle East question. As for the Soviet Union's stand on a solution to the Middle East question, we are with the Arabs in their struggle.

Asked if the Lebanese Government has asked the Soviet Union to bring pressure on any party to the conflict in southern Lebanon to solve the existing problem there, the ambassador said: This question should be addressed to the Lebanese Government.

AMBASSADOR DEAN TALKS ABOUT U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT

NC121823Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] Governor of the Bank of Lebanon Michel al-Khuri and U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Gunther Dean exchanged speeches today at a banquet given by the U.S. ambassador in honor of Lebanese and American businessmen.

In his speech, the U.S. ambassador dealt with current U.S. aid for Lebanon, saying: Following the events of the summer, the Lebanese state needed aid to confront the problems of housing and refugee relief. Therefore, since 7 October, the U.S. Government has provided $3.5 million to help Lebanon in this field. Our aid has been in the form of foodstuffs, financial donations and medical supplies to the International Red Cross Committee. More aid will follow.

On the military side, we have recently supplied a new consignment of equipment for the Lebanese Army. This is part of the allotment for Lebanon during the 1977 fiscal year, which amounts to $25 million. I take this opportunity to say that I had heard certain rumors that part of the equipment the U.S. Government supplied to the Lebanese Army went to unauthorized quarters. I asked the two colonels working with me to investigate this charge. They officially reported to me that they have personally ascertained that the equipment remained under the control of the Lebanese Army. It pleases me today to say that another consignment of military sales will be negotiated in the near future. My government has approved a $42.5 million-program for additional equipment. Talks are taking place now between the United States and Lebanon to specify the type of equipment.

PRIME MINISTER MEETS OFFICIALS, U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC150750Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The results of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss' talks in Damascus, the security situation and the situation in the south were the subjects of several consultations carried out by the prime minister yesterday.

Prime Minister al-Huss met with the Interior Minister Salah Salman and Works and Tourism Minister Engineer Amin al-Bizri. They discussed the situation in general and the security situation in particular. They also discussed the steps that should be taken to consolidate security and reassurance.

Prime Minister al-Huss also met with Arab Deterrent Forces Commander Col Sami al-Khatib and reviewed the security situation in wake of the recent incidents in a number of axes and contact lines.

In the evening, Prime Minister al-Huss met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Gunther Dean for 1 hour. After the meeting, the U.S. ambassador said that the discussions dealt with all the problems connected with the Lebanese situation, particularly the extension of the UNIFIL mandate. He said that their views were close and that Prime Minister al-Huss presented some views which they debated. He emphasized that the United States would define its stand at the UN Security Council on the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate. He expressed hope that the forces that will withdraw would be replaced and that the Lebanese regular forces will be able to carry out their task.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES IN BEIRUT

NC141543Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad arrived in Beirut this afternoon. He will visit Lebanon until 16 January. Riyad and Lebanese officials will discuss the Arab programs and establishments in Lebanon and the financial affairs related to the reconstruction of Lebanon in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Arab League in this connection.

PATRIARCH KHURAYSH, SHAM'UN, AL-JUMAYYIL MEET

NC141408Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] His Beatitude Maronite Patriarch Khuraysh, former President Camille Sham'un and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil today held a long meeting at the patriarchate in Ekirki during which they discussed the general situation in the country and its political, security and social developments. They devoted part of their meeting to discussing the bases of national detente and the need to achieve it at this delicate phase in which Lebanon is exposed to the dangers of division, partition and settlement of Palestinians in it.

After the meeting, our reporter talked to the three personalities. Former President Camille Sham'un said:

[Begin recording] We paid our respects to his beatitude the patriarch. We discussed the situation in Lebanon, as well as the questions of accepting the principle of dialog between the members of the Lebanese family; supporting legitimacy; requesting the legitimacy to always protect Lebanon and its destiny and dignity; making a declaration to the entire world that we are determined to continuously observe the cease-fire and that we are as eager to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence as we are to see that all these matters are accomplished in an atmosphere of peace and reassurance.

[Question] Mr President, what comments do you have on what happened yesterday?

[Answer] My comment is that we have extended the cease-fire and are going to maintain it. At the same time, we want to secure Lebanon's sovereignty and independence in the manner I have pointed out.

[Question] Mr President, what is your comment on the escalation and the threat which were contained in the statement issued by the Deterrent Forces Command?

[Answer] We pay no attention to the deterrent command statement. We do not [word indistinct] escalation and we pay no attention to any threat. We do not want to [word indistinct] be a means for dealings between us and the Syrians. [end recording]

Replying to the our reporter's questions, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil spoke about the current situation and the way to work toward a national detente that will bring the Lebanese together and provide them with the means to defend their cause and protect their homeland against dangers. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said:

[Begin recording] Undoubtedly, such meetings are very useful. This meeting was very useful. However, I believe that if such meetings are not joint meetings, we can achieve nothing. As you are aware, this country is divided between Muslims and Christians. In my opinion all the separate meetings in the Christian circles and those in the Muslim sectors are not useful. What is useful is that we seek and work to hold joint meetings so that we, Lebanese Muslims and Christians, can agree on what we seek, which is to reach an understanding first with the Palestinians, second with the Syrians, then with the Arab world and finally with the whole world. As long as we continue to differ and remain divided, with each one of us doing what he wants, I think that we will be unable to overcome the difficult situation in which we find ourselves. Whenever a side asks for something it is told: You do not agree among yourselves. Those who say so are right. However, I cannot see what we are differing about. If it is about the Palestinian issue, I do not believe that there is a difference. Regarding the unity of the land and of the people, I do not believe that anyone differs on that.

I believe that our dispute is artificial and [word indistinct] all the foreign hands, which seek destruction, are destroying, separating and creating all these problems. I can assure you that nobody likes shooting or bullets. All of us, whether Christians or Muslims, can see that what is happening is bringing destruction to everybody. I am sure that both the Muslims and the Christians want to see an end to the setback we are experiencing. Regrettably, however, the fact that we are divided is making things worse.

[Question] Shaykh Pierre, your calls for dialog and agreement among the Lebanese sides are quite old. So far, we have not seen any response or reaction to them. What are your comments?

[Answer] However, I very strongly believe that if we want our country to be saved from the tragedy we are experiencing, the only way is to reach an agreement among ourselves. That is why I proposed a long time ago that a Camp David-type meeting be held in a calm, sincere and honest atmosphere to see what we can do. I again say that I do not believe that there is a dispute on the matters which we imagine to be in dispute. At such a meeting we may agree or not, but in any case, we should agree not to kill each other.

[Question] Is there a plan you have agreed upon for dialog with the other sides?

[Answer] Let the shooting die down first. How can you [word indistinct] when there is a pistol pointed at your head? Therefore, I ask that the gun should go silent and then we can sit in a calm atmosphere to discuss things. I can emphasize to you that we will not differ. As I have often said: Let us hold a meeting, even a short one, provided that the destructive hand allows us to meet and that the destruction-seeking group stays away and lets us meet. [end recording]

LEBANESE, SYRIAN PRIME MINISTERS MEET, MAKE STATEMENTS

NC1315302 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived at the Syrian border at 1115 today. He was welcomed by Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, ministers and senior officials.

The radio correspondent in Damascus, Samir Mansur, has sent the following dispatch:

[Begin recording] What is special about this visit is that it is taking place at a time when we are seeking to implement the Bayt Ad-din conference's resolutions, which crystallized the joint Lebanese-Arab will. This is part of a statement Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made in reply to the reporters' questions on arrival at the Lebanese-Syrian border. He added: It gives me pleasure to visit Damascus now and then to hold discussions with his excellency, President Hafiz al-Asad, and senior officials in fraternal Syria on all issues of interest to the two fraternal countries. This is natural because of the close and special fraternal ties between both countries.

What is special about this visit is that it is taking place when we are seeking to implement the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions, which crystallized the joint Lebanese-Arab will to achieve peace and restore stability in Lebanon. Fraternal Syria played a primary role in drafting these resolutions.

This visit, Prime Minister al-Huss added, is also taking place when Lebanon is being subjected to a fierce plot and blatant aggression by Israel against its entity and fate because of what is happening in southern Lebanon. It is of no avail to Israel to hide behind armed local groups which have rebelled against legitimacy and abandoned their national duties. It is Israeli aggression and an Israeli plot.

Prime Minister al-Huss went on: The question of the south is Lebanon's number one problem, and it concerns all the Arabs. We said and are still saying that the south is a joint Arab responsibility. Therefore, now that the question is passing through its most delicate and grave phase, it is our duty to hold consultations with the fraternal Arab states, foremost of which is Syria, regarding everything related to saving the south and Lebanon from everything that is being concocted against them. This ends the statement by the prime minister.

The Arab Deterrent Forces will remain in Lebanon until they realize their aims. This is part of the statement by Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, who welcomed Prime Minister al-Huss at the border. Prime Minister al-Halabi added: I have nothing to add to what Prime Minister al-Huss said. Personally, I am very happy to meet with brother Dr al-Huss, who is now visiting Syria and whose sincere patriotism and continuous work for the sake of Lebanon's unity and territorial safety is well known to us.

I share his opinion. We in Syria are very eager to implement the resolutions of the Bayt ad-Din conference, which convened as a result of an Arab will and a Syrian effort, which has always sought to restore health and safety to fraternal Lebanon.

Asked if new steps would be taken to speed up the implementation of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions, the Syrian prime minister said: The visit by Dr al-Huss to Syria and the continuous meetings between the Lebanese and Syrian officials are aimed at expediting the implementation of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions.

Asked again if practical steps would be taken, he said: Naturally, but if we divulge them, we would be getting ahead of the discussions. The matter will be dealt with at the discussions between Prime Minister al-Huss and President al-Asad.

Asked if there were any truth to reports about the withdrawal of Syrian forces operating with the Arab Deterrent Forces from Lebanon, Al-Halabi said: You know that the Syrian forces and the Arab Deterrent Forces entered Lebanon to realize certain aims--Lebanon's unity and territorial safety. These forces will remain in Lebanon until these aims are realized. [end recording]

Al-Huss Meets With Al-Asad

JN1316547 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1514 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--His excellency, President Hafiz al-Asad, received at 1230 today Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attended.

Dr al-Huss conveyed to President al-Asad the greetings of President Ilyas Sarkis. He also explained the various aspects of the situation in Lebanon and the plan of the Lebanese state to tackle this situation. All issues submitted for discussion were discussed in a fraternal spirit. President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's eagerness to save Lebanon from the dangers threatening it as well as Syria's support for every step strengthening the security of the fraternal country and preserving the unity of its land and people. President al-Asad asked Dr al-Huss to convey his greetings to President Ilyas Sarkis.

KHADDAM ANSWERS NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS ON LEBANON

JN1320197 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam answered questions by a number of Lebanese newsmen who accompanied Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss on his short visit to Damascus.

Asked about Dr al-Huss' visit to Damascus, Khaddam said: We are happy to receive Prime Minister al-Huss, particularly since he has come to discuss basic matters of interest to all of us in Lebanon, Syria and all parts of the homeland.

Khaddam added: During Dr al-Huss' visit, we discussed all the basic and important questions, whether on southern Lebanon or on the implementation of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions. As a result of the discussion and analysis, our views were identical on the questions discussed.

Khaddam explained that President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to Prime Minister al-Huss that Syria supports Lebanon's attempts to preserve its safety and unity and implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions and confront the aggression on southern Lebanon. President Hafiz al-Asad has also affirmed that Syria constantly supports legitimacy in Lebanon and the exercise of responsibilities stemming from it. Undoubtedly, you are familiar with the good and fraternal ties existing between his excellency, President Ilyas Sarkis, and his excellency, President Hafiz al-Asad. These ties are always employed for the interest of both countries and of our joint issues. I must in this regard reaffirm that we are with Lebanon and will remain with Lebanon to secure its unity, safety and sovereignty over all its lands.

Khaddam explained that his excellency, President Hafiz al-Asad, has reaffirmed that Syria will not hesitate to take any measure to help the Lebanese state implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions.

Asked about the practical steps being taken to implement these resolutions, Khaddam said: The matter concerns Lebanon. The measures are Lebanese, not Syrian. We in Syria are prepared to accept any burden or responsibility needed to strengthen law and order in Lebanon and lead to the implementation of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions.

Khaddam was asked: There are people who are saying that the so-called Lebanese Front includes some moderate people, and that the Bayt ad-Din resolutions called for condemning those dealing with Israel. What is your position regarding the moderates who are actually dealing with Israel?

Khaddam said: To be a moderate and deal with Israel is absurd. To be moderate means that one is working for the interests of Lebanon and the Arabs. As for those dealing with Israel under any pretext, they cannot be regarded as moderates; they are colluding and linked with Israel. Anyway, this judgement is not absolute. There are moderates in this or that front. As I personally know, there are persons and elements in the Lebanese Front who are opposed to those dealing with Israel. They may lack the power to do anything, and this judgement should not be absolute.

Asked whether there were steps to be taken to have the Lebanese Army enter the southern Lebanese areas, Khaddam said: Today, as in the past, we stress the importance and need for the entry of the Lebanese Army into southern Lebanon to shoulder its responsibilities. Undoubtedly, Syria and any other Arab country will not hesitate to help in anyway in this connection.

Asked about the withdrawal of the Syrian force operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces, Khaddam affirmed that the Syrian force operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces in fraternal Lebanon will stay until it complete the task for which it went to Lebanon.

Asked whether there is an intention to hold a Syrian-Lebanese summit, Khaddam said: Meetings between both presidents are always possible. However, this question was not discussed.

Asked about Camille Sham'un's demand to withdraw the Arab Deterrent Forces from Lebanon, Khaddam said: Sham'un can say whatever he wants, and we will do whatever we want.

At the end of his answers to the newsmen's questions, Khaddam praised Prime Minister al-Huss and said: He is actually making big and positive efforts to implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions and restore stability and law and order to Lebanon. Therefore, he deserves appreciation for these efforts.

TISHRIN WARNS AGAINST 'PROVOCATIONS' in LEBANON

JN1410500Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Lebanese and the Arabs Are Waiting for the National Decision," TISHRIN comments on the acts of aggression by the gangs colluding with the Zionist enemy against the Arab Deterrent Forces and civilians.

The paper says: Over the past 2 days and on the eve of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss' visit to Damascus, which took place yesterday, the gangs of colluders and agents in Lebanon have escalated their dirty attempts to disrupt security with the transparent aim of drawing attention to their presence in the area and their ability to move and prevent the implementation of any security plan that aims at establishing stability and reassurance in the country.

These gangs still live under the illusion that their continued presence in the Lebanese arena is due to their strength, despite the fact that they have had several experiences that should have shown them that they exist thanks to several odd factors, none of which is their strength or the fact that their capabilities cannot be confronted and destroyed.

Although it is not necessary to speak about these childish show-off attempts when we speak about the Lebanese situation, it is useful to remind these gangs that their dwarfish size is not worthy of any consideration. It is also useful to reassure these gangs that Dr al-Huss' visit to Damascus came in a larger, deeper and more comprehensive atmosphere than that which those conceited people thought their provocations had prepared for this visit.

TISHRIN adds: It has become clear that the road to impose legitimacy throughout Lebanon is the one that overcomes the curves and slippery pitfalls in which lurk the gangs of collaborators and agents conspiring against legitimacy and Lebanon.

It has also become clear that Lebanon will regain its political good health only through a national dialog with the participation of the patriotic forces that express the aspirations of the Lebanese people and are concerned about Lebanon's sovereignty, unity, and distinctive Arab and cultural role.

Since the security and political roads are clear, what remains is a national decision on and the serious application of them, as well as a firm stand on the abnormal situation and the illogical practices in Lebanon.

In anticipation of this decision and stand, the Lebanese and their Arab brethren hopefully and willingly look forward to helping Lebanon regain its good health and ability to grow and contribute.

It is not repetitive to say that overlooking facts for any reason, weakening stands under any slogan and postponing the decision under any pretext will further aggravate the painful state of affairs in Lebanon, particularly since the facts are clear and the required stands are obvious. The anticipated decision will be supported on the national Lebanese and pan-Arab levels.

[Damascus SANA in Arabic at 0814 GMT on 14 January carries a report that notes that "TISHRIN affirms that Syria has always backed the legitimate Lebanese authorities in their defense of Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty, Arabism and links with the Arab cause. It is doing so today, the paper adds. In a leading comment today, the paper says: The Syrian forces within the Arab Deterrent Forces have always been the forces of the legitimate Lebanese authorities, carrying out their orders and defending them. These forces are doing the same thing today. TISHRIN adds: Those who once thought that Syria could be hunted down or overpowered in Lebanon have learned from the experience of more than 2 years that this cannot happen. Syria is strong enough to face the conspiracies inside and outside Lebanon. Syria is giving honest support to the fraternal Lebanese people to defend themselves, their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and their crucial link with the Arab cause. TISHRIN stresses that Syria has not been and will not be a party to the dispute in Lebanon. Syria is not against any patriotic Lebanese faction; it is only concerned with Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty and Arabism. Syria is a friend of everyone who loves and is devoted to Lebanon.

["The paper continues: Those who conspire with Israel cannot possibly be Lebanese patriots. They are the enemies of Lebanon, Syria and the Arabs. There cannot be any dialog with such people, there also cannot be any relationship, let alone friendship, with them. Like all Lebanese patriots, Syria considers these people enemies who must be fought. TISHRIN concludes by saying that every step taken by the legitimate Lebanese authorities to try those dealing with the enemy and to establish government authority throughout Lebanon will get the support of every Lebanese and Syrian patriot, as well as of every Arab."]

PAPER CRITICIZES CARTER'S STATEMENT ON LINKS WITH ISRAEL

JN141018 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0834 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 14 January--ATH-THAWRAH today criticizes President Carter's statement about firm security links between Israel and the United States. The paper says that Carter's words are directed at more than one quarter; they are directed at the Arabs, who consider the important national changes taking place in the Middle East to be a good omen, and at those who are showing increasing fear of these developments, including, of course, Israel and others in the region.

The paper continues: Carter's words are also particularly directed at those who support the important changes in the Middle East and who have announced and stressed on more than one occasion their rejection of the Israeli aggression and the Zionist plan for the region as well as their readiness to resist this aggression and plan with every weapon, including the weapons of oil and unity.

ATH-THAWRAH says that Carter's words reveal the concept of Israel-American security as understood by Washington--a concept in complete harmony with Israel's security concept.

The paper concludes by saying that so long as Carter's security is linked with that of As-Sadat, Begin and the Shah, it is only natural for the nationalist forces, which are opposed to this security theory, to establish an alliance among themselves that is stronger and more solid than that of Carter, Begin, the shah and As-Sadat.

IRAQI OFFICIAL TARIQ 'AZIZ ARRIVES 13 JANUARY

JN131321 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council in fraternal Iraq, arrived in Damascus this morning heading an official delegation on a visit of several days to Syria. He was met at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, minister of information, Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh, minister of the interior, and a number of officials.

SYRIAN, IRAQI SECURITY COMMITTEES HOLD JOINT MEETING

JN141740Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The committees of national security in the fraternal countries of Syria and Iraq held a joint meeting today at the conference hall of the Interior Ministry in Damascus. The Syrian side was headed by Brig Gen 'Adman Dabbagh, interior minister, and the Iraqi side by Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council. The meeting was attended by heads of security departments in both countries.

At the beginning of the meeting Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh welcomed the Iraqi delegation to its second home. He affirmed the importance of this meeting at this delicate stage. He also affirmed the importance of coordination and integration in the field of security between both fraternal countries in implementation of the National Charter for Joint Action and the directives of leaders Hafiz al-Asad and Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr on the way to achieve unity. The minister stressed the importance of cooperation to reach the great aim of protecting the party and the revolution in both countries in the interest of unified action and against the enemies of this unity and Arab unity. Sa'dun Shakir also spoke on the importance of this meeting and its results of increasing cooperation and integration by the security departments in both fraternal regions in accordance with Al-Asad's and Al-Bakr's guidance. This meeting will foil the plots of enemies of the Arab nation, who have been frightened by these rapid unionist meetings, which are in implementation of the National Charter of Joint Action. The meeting discussed the general security problems that threaten both countries and the importance of coordination and integration by the security departments in implementing the charter and achieving unity between them.

PARTY OFFICIAL RECEIVES ROMANIAN CP DELEGATION

JN141447Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 14 January--Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and director of the Foreign Relations Office, today received a delegation of the Romanian Communist Party [RCP] under Mihai Dalea, member of the RCP Executive Political Committee. The visiting RCP delegation is here to attend the opening of the 14th session of the Palestinian National Council, due to begin here tomorrow. The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Iz ad-Din Nasir, member of the regional reserve command and chairman of the General Federation of Workers Associations. Comrade Sayyagh welcomed the guest delegation and spoke of the relations of friendship and cooperation between both parties. He also outlined the recent developments in the situation in the Arab area, particularly in light of the Camp David accords and the capitulatory course of As-Sadat, which eventually led to the current balance in the Middle East. Comrade Sayyagh talked about the Syrian efforts under the leadership of leader President Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, to establish a just and permanent peace in the area and secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Then he praised the signing of the National Charter for Joint Action between fraternal Syria and Iraq, which will further consolidate the Arab struggle and the achievement of the Arab masses' aspirations.

Comrade Dalea then replied and asserted that the RCP, led by President Ceausescu, considers the Palestinian question as the core of the area crisis and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. He elaborated that a just and lasting peace in the area is conditional upon the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinians. He also reiterated that the achievement of peace comes through a comprehensive implementation of UN resolutions. Comrade Dalea added: We come to Syria to attend the 14th session of the Palestine National Council. Our delegation is made up of two members of the party Central Committee and the vice chairman of the International Relations Department. The formation of the delegation indicates that the Palestinian question is very important to us. Finally, Comrade Dalea wished the Palestinian people success in their struggle to establish their independent state over their homeland.

At the end of the meeting, Comrade Sayyagh greeted comrade members of the Romanian delegation and wished them a happy stay in Syria. The meeting was attended by the Romanian ambassador in Damascus and a number of the party comrades.

LIBYA

WORKERS REPORTEDLY CONTINUE PRODUCTION SITE TAKEOVERS

LD121510Y Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 12 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Workers continued to seize the companies, factories and production sites as urged by the leader of the great 1st of September revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who called upon them to liberate themselves from the enslavement of hire and the exploitation of employers and to apply the dictum "partners not wage workers."

The working masses seized the following production sites where they formed people's committees:

1.-Wadi al Zeit, contractors, Sabha;
2-The post office, Sabha branch;
3-Libyan Airlines, Sabha branch;
4-Public Transport Corporation, Sabha branch;
5-Alwahadiri Contractors, Sabha;
6-Ali Ibrahim al-Alem Company, Sabha;
7-Youssef Jarrah Quarry, Barrak ash-Shati;
8-Kurkub Contractors, Darnah;
9-Al-Bahr Tourist Hotel, Darnah.

MAURITANIA

MAURITANIA-MOROCCO JOINT COMMITTEE MEETS

LD131422Y Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Nouakchott, Jan 13, (MAP)--The Moroccan-Mauritanian joint committee started its meeting here Friday, to discuss the two countries' cooperation in the fields of economy, commerce, and finance.

The Moroccan delegation led by Tayeb Bencheikh, secretary of state to the prime minister, was received by Moustapha Mohamed Ould Saleck, the Mauritanian chief of state.

Agreements Signed

LD132250Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] The Mauritanian-Moroccan Committee on Cooperation this evening ended its work, which began in Nouakchott yesterday. The Moroccan side was headed by Mohamed Karim al-'Amrani, chairman of the Mauritanian-Moroccan Agency for Cooperation and Tayeb Bencheikh, secretary of state for the prime minister's office in charge of planning and regional development. The Mauritanian side was headed by the Minister of Finance and Trade Sidi Ahmed Ould B'Neijara and Lt Col Ahmed Ould Bouceif, minister of industry, fishing and maritime trade.

The Moroccan delegation left the capital this evening for home after it was seen off at the airport by a Mauritanian delegation.

A statement was issued by the committee which says:

The Mauritanian-Moroccan enlarged joint committee met on 12 and 13 January 1979 in Nouakchott within the framework of the relations of friendship, fraternity and cooperation which link the Moroccan Kingdom and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, in accordance with the agreements concluded between the two countries.

The Moroccan delegation was headed by Mohamed Karim al-'Amrani, chairman of the Mauritanian-Moroccan Agency for Cooperation, and Tayeb Bencheikh, vice chairman of the agency and secretary of state for the prime minister's office in charge of planning and regional development. The Mauritanian side was headed by Finance and Commerce Minister Sidi Ahmed Ould B'Neijara and by Minister of Industry, Fishing and Maritime Trade Lt Col Ahmed Ould Bouceif.

The two sides were satisfied with the spirit of fraternity, friendship and solidarity which continued to characterize relations between the two countries. The two sides also reviewed cooperation between the two countries and observed with great satisfaction the speed with which some important projects have been implemented, such as the Grand Mosque and the cultural center in Nouakchott and cold storage warehouses and the two airports of Nouakchott and (Aba).

After this review the two sides studied ways and means to ensure expanding and deepening this cooperation. And in this connection, the two sides signed the following agreements:

1. An agreement concerning the movement and residence of the citizens of the two countries in each other's territory;

2. An agreement concerning payments;

3. A new trade agreement;

4. An agreement that calls for establishing a joint Mauritanian-Moroccan bank for development;

5. An agreement that calls for establishing a mixed company for maritime fishing;

6. An agreement that calls for establishing a mixed company for maritime navigation.

The two sides also decided on several measures which are aimed at expanding cooperation to embrace the following sections:

The Moroccan-Mauritanian highway project; the building of ground satellite stations in Mauritania; drilling of water wells, the mineral sector; to give aid to the public transport company in Nouakchott; to give aid to the Mauritanian company for construction and land management; rural development; national education; technical aid; and youth and sports affairs.

The two sides were satisfied with the fraternal and cordial atmosphere in which the work of the committee took place, also with the important and positive results achieved as a result of the spirit of (?cooperation).

In conclusion, the two sides affirmed the will of the two governments to work by all means to deepen and expand cooperation in all fields in order to ensure the prosperity and progress of the Mauritanian and Moroccan peoples.

SALECK COMMENTS ON W. SAHARA, FRENCH MILITARY AID

PA121248Y Paris AFP in French 1456 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 Jan (AFP)--Mauritanian chief of state Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck made it clear during a talk with this agency that Mauritania would favor the organization of a referendum in the part of the Western Sahara (Tiris el-Gharbia Province) that it controls if that is the desire of the POLISARIO Front and if a general solution to the conflict proves to be an impossibility.

"We have duties toward the region of Tiris el-Gharbia, which we guarantee to fulfill. We must fulfill those duties in accordance with the existing UN resolutions," Colonel Saleck said. "All that might be derived from those resolutions," he added, "will be put into practice by Mauritania if we do not arrive at an ideal solution supported by all the parties concerned."

"Should there be a blocking action or any reticence on the part of one protagonist or the other, Mauritania, so far as it is concerned, is determined to resolve the Sahara issue at its own level in regard to everything that might depend on its will and its power," he remarked.

The Mauritanian chief of state indicated, however, that he could not predict the POLISARIO Front's final position on the subject of the organization of a referendum in Tiris el-Gharbia. "They should adopt a stand," he said simply.

Further on, President Saleck refused to provide any details about the "multiple contacts" which Mauritania and the POLISARIO Front have had since 10 July 1978, when President Moktar Ould Daddah was overthrown. "That is not in anyone's interest, and least of all in the interest of peace," he commented. "Within the framework of our discussions and until we succeed, certain problems should be known only to the two parties concerned," the chief of state stated.

"The Saharan movement has its stand, we have ours and, naturally, it is through meeting that we can mutually enlighten each other. What counts is the result," he added.

Asked about Mauritania's rapprochement with Algeria, Colonel Saleck recalled that since his rise to power, one of his principal objectives has been the "normalization" of relations between the two countries. "As opposed to the ousted regime, the 10 July movement seeks to offer its hand to all," he affirmed.

President Saleck stressed that the rapprochement between Mauritania and Algeria should not in any way alter the relations between Nouakchott and Rabat. "We have no intention, at least on our own initiative, of modifying our cooperation with that sister nation," he stressed.

President Saleck once again noted that relations with the neighboring states should not be dependent upon the Western Sahara conflict. "On the contrary," he said, "it is necessary to view this problem within a specific framework." "But a general accord is subject to the quality of the relations among the three parties concerned as well as the relations with the people of Western Sahara. Our policy is aimed at either the resumption or the consolidation of our relations with all of the countries and peoples surrounding us," he declared.

Finally, regarding French military aid to Mauritania, Colonel Saleck commented that it is not "coincidental" and that, therefore, it is not necessary to look for the "old dregs of colonialism." He referred in particular to the conclusion, in due time, of the French Jaguars reconnaissance flights over Mauritanian territory, but he discarded the idea that this measure might lead to a decrease in the military cooperation between Paris and Nouakchott which, according to him, will now take "another form" (training, maneuvers, and so forth).

MOROCCAN TROOPS BEGIN WITHDRAWAL FROM NOUADHIBOU

LD131624Y Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Nouakchott--It has been learned from an informed source in the Mauritanian capital that the Moroccan forces "of about 1,200 men" stationed in Nouadhibou, (?400) kilometers north of Nouakchott, have begun to withdraw from this economic center and return to Morocco.

Further on Pullback

PA121249Y Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Nouakchott, Jan 12 (AFP)--Moroccan troops stationed at Nouadhibou, about 400 kms (250 miles) north of this Mauritanian capital, are now withdrawing and returning to Morocco, informed sources said here today.

An estimated 1,200 Moroccan forces were based in the important economic center. Their withdrawal follows the redeployment early in December of 300 Moroccan forces from Akjoujt, 250 kms (156 miles) north of here, to Nouakchott.

This latest withdrawal leaves about 7,000 Moroccan soldiers still in Mauritania, based in towns or regions in Atar, Zouerate, Bir Moghrein, and Ain Ben Titli, in the far north, and Dakhla and Argoub in the Mauritainian-controlled Western Sahara.

Reinforcements for the Nouadhibou garrison was sought in 1977 by former President Moktar Ould Daddah, who was deposed last year. They were called in against a background of increasing attacks by the Saharan liberation movement POLISARIO on Mauritanian territory.

Yesterday, Mauritanian President Mustapha Ould Mohamed Salek strongly hinted that his country would be willing to hold a referendum over the part of the Western Sahara which it now controls if Algerian-backed POLISARIO agreed to it.

Meanwhile, it was announced in Rabat that Morocco Secretary of State for Planning Tayeb Bencheikh left today for Nouakchott at the head of an important delegation. The secretary of state is also vice-chairman of the Moroccan-Mauritanian Cooperation Agency. The announcement said his visit was part of moves to boost bilateral cooperation.

MOROCCO

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS FROM GABON, COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD150026Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman arrived in Al-Manarah Airport in Marrakesh this evening from Libreville after an official visit to Gabon and an unofficial visit to Cameroon.

The Moroccan delegation spent 3 days in Gabon before proceeding to Yaounde yesterday morning where Prime Minister Osman spent 24 hours. He was accompanied by the secretary of state for foreign affairs and the secretary of state for the prime minister's office in charge of economic affairs.

During the Moroccan delegation's stay in Yaounde Ahmed Osman held talks with President Ahmadou Ahidjo. The president of Cameroon last night gave a banquet in honor of the prime minister.

Following Prime Minister Ahmed Osman's visit to Gabon, a joint communique was published in Rabat and Libreville which says:

At the invitation of His Excellency President el-Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Gabonese Republic, Ahmed Osman, prime minister of the government of the Kingdom of Morocco paid an official visit to Gabon from 10 to 13 January 1979. During his stay in Gabon, Ahmed Osman was received by El-Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the republic, to whom he conveyed a letter from His Majesty King Hassan II and his majesty's fraternal greetings.

Ahmed Osman also held talks with Gabon's prime minister. Among those who took part in the talks on the Moroccan side were Abderrahmane Baddou, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and Othman Slimani, secretary of state for the prime minister's office in charge of economic affairs; and Moulay Driss el Alaoui, Moroccan ambassador to Gabon. On the Gabonese side were Martin Bongo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Etienne Moussirou, minister of commerce and industrial development; Jean Baptiste Ngomo Obiang, secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Dominique Bongouere, director of the president's office; and Guy Rene Kombili, Gabonese ambassador to Morocco.

Throughout his stay, the prime minister noted with admiration the great efforts being made to develop the country under the leadership of His Excellency President El-Hadj Omar Bongo and the success recorded in the economic, cultural and social fields. On his part, President Bongo praised Prime Minister Ahmed Osman noting his good attributes and the effective work he is undertaking under the aegis of His Majesty King Hassan II.

There was an exchange of views which covered in particular current issues in the African and international arenas and bilateral Moroccan-Gabonese relations. At the international level, the two sides reviewed all the aspects of the current developments in Africa and reaffirmed their loyalty to the OAU. They expressed their conviction in the need to solve African issues by the African states themselves without any foreign interference and within the framework of respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

The two sides paid particular attention to the situation prevailing in the Middle East. In this connection, emphasis was placed on the question of speeding up a comprehensive solution that takes into consideration the existence of a Palestinian entity and the need for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory.

Conscious of the increasing deterioration of the balance of exchanges between the advanced and the developing states and the need to eliminate the disparities, the two sides affirmed their intention to participate in the establishment of a fairer and more just new economic system.

The two sides reaffirmed their solidarity with the national movements which are fighting for national liberation in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Azania and consequently denounce racial segregation and apartheid in South Africa.

On the bilateral level, after observing the identity of viewpoints concerning the issues raised, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the complete harmony which characterizes relations between the two countries with due consideration to the ties of friendship and fraternity which continually brought them together and which reflected the personal relations existing between His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Bongo.

The two sides recorded with satisfaction the progress made in all the fields of cooperation particularly with regard to those connected with the economic, financial, cultural and technical fields and the training of cadres since the official visit of the head of state of Gabon to Morocco in November 1974.

Within the framework of their development policy and out of their awareness of the benefit of strengthening economic dealing among African states, the two sides decided the following:

1--To devote all their available means to intensifying these exchanges and encouraging businessmen to give priority to direct trade between the two countries.

2--To establish every structure that tends to develop and promote investments between the two countries. And in this framework, the two sides have decided to create a mixed Moroccan-Gabonese company to take charge of distributing the marketing of the two countries' products. The two sides encourage the participation of businessmen in the economic fairs and exhibitions that take place in both countries out of their belief in the role these exhibitions play in the promotion of trade.

The two sides have also signed the following documents: A treaty concerning the protection and encouragement and guaranteeing of investments and an agreement connected with cultural and scientific cooperation.

The talks between the two sides took place in a fraternal atmosphere characrerized by an African spirit. Prime Minister Ahmed Osman expressed his many thanks to His Excellency President El-Hadj Omar Bongo for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and the Moroccan delegation. He expressed his conviction that his official visit to the Gabonese Republic will contribute toward the further strengthening of the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Written in Libreville on 14 January 1979.

SUDAN

MENA: NUMAYRI INTERVIEW WITH SUDANESE PAPER

NC141508Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 14 January--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has stated that Egypt wants a comprehensive peace between all the Arab states and Israel but Israel wants a partial peace, and this is why the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations were suspended.

President Numayri emphasized that a comprehensive peace will be in the interests of the Arab nation and Arab culture because the Arab nation and culture are stronger and have deep roots in the Middle East. The Israeli culture, he said, cannot grow because it is a tribal culture restricted to the Jews.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AYYAM published today, President Numayri says that Sudan believes that the Camp David accord has achieved many gains for the Arab nation. This, he adds, is why Sudan has announced that it supports it. At the same time, work should continue for the fulfillment of all the Arab demands and for the liberation of all the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

President Numayri says that what the Camp David agreements have achieved, together with the United States becoming a party to the negotiations, provides an opportunity which the Arabs must seize and not waste. He adds that he believes the road of peace and peace negotiations is the ideal road for the Arabs, regardless of whether it is followed at Camp David, Geneva, or any other place.

Asked about the view voiced by some observers to the effect that Sudan's pro-Egypt position may prompt certain Arab states to become negative about investing in Sudan, President Numayri says that the attitudes of the states which have investments in Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi--are in harmony with the Sudanese position. He adds that these states do not reject peace but believe that the Camp David agreement does not cover all aspects of the Arab cause.

He also says that the rejection states such as Syria, Iraq and Libya are urging the states investing in Sudan to stop their investments as long as there are differences of opinion, but the investing states have not responded because they understand the Sudanese positions.

Regarding the mission of the Arab Solidarity Committee, President Numayri says that this committee exists legally but not in practice. He adds: I want to revive some Arab solidarity in the interests of the Arab nation.

Referring to the situation between Sudan and Ethiopia and reports about Ethiopia's occupation of parts of Sudanese territory, he says that often the Sudanese forces lose their way and cross Ethiopian borders and the Ethiopian forces do the same. He adds: We will resolve this problem by diplomatic means.

President Numayri stresses that Sudan is not worried about border problems which are temporary, and that he is reassured about the domestic front since the revolution is based on firm and comprehensive foundations detached from individuals.

President Numayri welcomes the establishment of diplomatic relations between the PRC and the United States. This step, he says, gives a boost to the peace efforts in the world and opens a door to the world for China, which can benefit from modern technology now that it has discarded revolutionary violence.

EGYPT'S KHALIL, DELEGATION ARRIVE; STATEMENT MADE

NC122150Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil arrived in Khartoum this evening at the head of a delegation that includes a number of ministers. They will attend the fifth meeting of the Higher Ministerial Committee on Integration Between Egypt and Sudan. The meeting will begin tomorrow morning at Khartoum's Friendship Hall.

Prime Minister Khalil was met at Khartoum Airport by Sudanese Vice President Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr and a number of Sudanese officials.

Dr Mustafa Khalil made a statement on his arrival. He said that Sudan has a special standing as far as Egypt is concerned. The fraternal Sudanese people and the Egyptian people are as a matter of fact the same people. Relations dating back thousands of years link the two peoples. The two peoples are looking forward to integration and the implementation of projects, not only in the spheres of industry and agriculture but also in the humanitarian, cultural, educational and other spheres.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said that Egypt and Sudan are one country and are only separated by borders shown on maps. The two governments must work to achieve an integration that will result in bringing the two countries closer, until they become one country in the future.

Discussing developments pertaining to the resumption of the Middle East peace talks, Dr Mustafa Khalil said we are awaiting the reply of the U.S. Government to the proposals I sent. In my letter to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance I explained how the talks can start, because there are steps that must be taken before the talks can be resumed.

Dr Khalil continued: The U.S. side is now studying these steps and perhaps we will hear something about a move by the U.S. side.

Sudanese Vice President Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr made a statement in which he welcomed Dr Mustafa Khalil and members of his delegation. He said this meeting is an extension of numerous other meetings which have taken place in Khartoum, Cairo and Alexandria. He said that all these meetings are within the framework of the Charter of Joint Action signed by Presidents Anwar as-Sadat and Ja'far Numayri to lead the two countries and peoples on the road to integration.

Vice President, Egyptian Premier Meet

JN131147Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 13 January--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, Sudanese vice president and foreign minister, and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, who lead the Sudanese and Egyptian sides to the meetings of the Higher Ministerial Committee on Integration Between Egypt and Sudan, held a preparatory meeting at the Hilton here this morning. During the 1-hour meeting they reviewed the topics and projects connected with planning the future of integration between Sudan and Egypt.

VICE PRESIDENT ADDRESSES EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE COMMITTEE

NC131234Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0857 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Speech by Sudanese Vice President Ar-Rashid at-Tahir on 13 January at opening session of Higher Ministerial Committee for Integration Between Egypt and Sudan held at Friendship Hall in Khartoum--live]

[Excerpts] The two peoples of the Nile Valley are an indivisible part of the Arab nation. Indeed, they are the throbbing heart of the Arab homeland. By applying the program of political integration and work, Egypt and Sudan have taken a pioneering and firm step in the direction of the Arab nation's sublime aim of unity and joint action. They are giving new proof each day of the success and effectiveness of the integration experiment and of the fact that this experiment is proceeding along a sound scientific and practical path in the direction of the great objectives, supported by the believing masses in the north and the south. These masses are constantly looking forward to the glorious day in which comprehensive unity will embrace all parts of the Arab homeland and in which the entire Arab nation will enjoy the abundant and rich resources of its land and, by its immense economic capabilities and distinctive strategic position, will occupy its eminent position in today's world as a force working for peace, freedom and prosperity.

We profoundly believe in the vitality of the Arab people and in their ability to overcome the obstacles and difficulties. We also believe that the Arab nation's sharpest weapon is its solidarity and unity of ranks. Therefore, our Arab nation, which is now going through one of the most important and delicate phases of its fateful struggle, is in dire need of consolidating its solidarity, closing its ranks, repudiating its differences and overcoming its negative features. (?We believe) in the Arab nation's sacred struggle to achieve its firm aims of liberating all its occupied territories, including (?Jerusalem), and attaining the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their national independent state on their soil, so that the just and comprehensive peace--for which the Arab nation aspires, which it has sought by all means, and for which it has exerted and continues to exert utmost efforts--will prevail in the area.

Egypt and Sudan belong in the African continent geographically, culturally and strategically. Africa is now facing a serious challenge and is waging a ferocious battle against the racist regimes in the southern part of the continent. Egypt and Sudan are in the forefront of the forces confronting these challenges so that the African struggle can achieve its objectives of eliminating the minority regimes in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. The fact that Sudan and Egypt belong in the Arab and African worlds has given them the special role of consolidating Arab and African cohesion, entrenching the concepts of the African and Arab peoples' struggle and common destiny, and enhancing cooperation between them in all the political, economic, cultural and social fields.

As we ponder the results of our experiment since our last meeting in Alexandria, we satisfactorily and optimistically observe the internal stability and national construction the two countries have achieved and the programs of food security they have drawn up. In the integration projects, we have accomplished many achievements in various fields.

I would like to mention that before this session was convened, I held a (successful) meeting with brother Dr Mustafa Khalil during which we reviewed all the steps we took during the past years. We also reviewed all the projects which we have begun to implement or which have been studied. There was complete agreement between us. Our masses in the north and south expect us to emerge from this meeting, God willing, with a new plan [words indistinct] so that the integration projects will be a basic part of the two countries' plan. We will thus insure the implementation of these projects. You recall that we had adopted such a step in previous meetings, but there was continued procrastination in implementing it. [sentence indistinct]

The time has come for us to implement all our projects so that our masses in the northern and southern part of the valley will see that these projects, which for long have been dreams, have become realities.

W. SAHARA

30 MOROCCANS REPORTEDLY KILIED IN SAHARA ATTACK

LD141127Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Houari Boumediene offensive in the Western Sahara is continuing. The latest attack on the monarchist troops took place at Boujdor in the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic on 9 January. The military communique states that fighters of the Saharan Liberation Army inflicted heavy losses in men and materiel on the enemy forces. The whole garrison and the military installations of the occupation troops were subjected to intensive heavy artillery bombardment by the Saharan People's Liberation Army; this led to the total destruction of (?five) buildings and [word indistinct] housing the Moroccan soldiers, of whom 30 were killed and a similar number wounded.

DAYAN SKEPTICAL ABOUT PEACE WITH EGYPT

NC131250Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said he is not certain we will attain a peace agreement with Egypt, even though he wants such an agreement with all his heart in order to extricate Israel from its isolation. He added that there are still difficult problems that require a solution and that Egypt has hardened its stance because of the events in the area.

The foreign minister said: As-Sadat does not want to reach a separate agreement with us, and as a matter of fact any other Arab country will find it hard to do so.

The foreign minister was speaking in a forum for political and social clarifications in Kefar Hammacabiyyah. He stressed that this is not a political platform but a forum for clarifications only. He added that because of the events in Iran, the small quantity of oil that we possess, including the Sinai oil, should be looked upon as a very dear asset. We must learn the lesson that other countries have learned about treaties and act with great caution.

Our correspondent notes that in these remarks the foreign minister was alluding to a treaty with the United States.

More on Dayan Views

TA132040Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 13 Jan 79 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] Our correspondent Amnon Nadav was at Kefar Hamacabiyah today:

[Nadav] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is not certain that a peace agreement with Egypt will be reached, since there are still difficult questions that demand a solution. However, even if a peace agreement is reached, there is still risk involved in the link between it and the negotiations for the framework agreement on the autonomy issue. The foreign minister explains:

[Begin recording] [Dayan] It is possible that even if we do reach a peace agreement with Egypt now--and this is a great perhaps, with a heavy question mark--and if it is implemented at a certain date, and 1 month after the implementation of this agreement the negotiations on the autonomy get started, and these negotiations--with the consent of all parties--last 1 year, then we shall have here a very important question of a dual timetable.

According to the peace agreement between us and Egypt, the normalization in the relations between us and Egypt--that is to say: the exchange of ambassadors, freedom of traffic, the abolition of the boycott, free passage in the Suez Canal, and all the rest; namely, a full normalizing of relations such as there is between two countries living in peace--will be implemented 9 months after the signing of the agreement. That is to say, after we reach the Ra's Muhammad-Al 'Arish line in our withdrawal, Elat, Sharm ash-Shaykh-Ofira will be in our hands and Al 'Arish will be in their hands. The line extends west--or east--of Ra's Muhammad, but west of Sharm ash Shaykh and it includes Al 'Arish, and [this is] 9 months after the beginning of the negotiations.

Well then, let's say that the negotiations on the autonomy issue last 12 months and assume that it becomes clear in these negotiations--after 12 months, more or less--that we cannot reach an agreement and the autonomy that we have in our mind is not the same as Egypt envisages, and that what we think should be in the terrotiries during the 5 transition years is not what Egypt sees or would like to see--or what it will see 1 year after the signing of the agreement concerning everything that happens around it--then a crisis cannot be ruled out.

If we don't reach an agreement, if the mechanism breaks down and the whole thing blows up, then we shall lose that part of the Sinai we have withdrawn from--the western part--and we shall stay in the eastern part, the part extending from Ofira up to Al 'Arish, with the settlements, the airfields, and Sharm ash-Shaykh. Thus we shall know in what direction developments are moving. This we shall be able to put to the test during 2 and 1/4 years, during which not only the nature of relations can be tested, during the 3 years [as heard], but also the nature of the autonomy will be subjected to a test.

If I have to express my opinion, whether I think--under the present circumstances--that we should take this risk, and if I have to decide what the maximum risk is and what Israel should or shouldn't do, I'm in favor of taking this risk--to negotiate for the autonomy. We shouldn't reject this opportunity under those conditions. Perhaps it will become clear, nevertheless, that we can reach full peaceful relations with Egypt something that will be put to the test for 3 years as of today, or 2 and 1/4 years of normal relations during which we don't have to withdraw from the eastern part of Sinai. And within this period there is 1 year of clarifications over what the autonomy will be. I prefer to take this risk rather than say: I don't know what will happen with Nabulus. I don't know what will happen with the settlements. I don't know what will happen with this or that...and hence, [say] you know what? Let's come out today and tell the Egyptians we don't want to. Also, in a situation like this, when there is one country like Egypt, which is ready to enter these negotiations--shall we reply to this in the negative? [end recording]

[Nadav] Most of the speakers and most of the interjections from the audience differed with the foreign minister's views regarding the peace negotiations with Egypt, regarding the autonomy plan and the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. For that reason the foreign minister went out of his way to explain at the very beginning of his lecture that he does not see in this forum a party convention or a convention of a party in the making, because he does not wish to belong today to any kind of framework.

[Dayan--begin recording] This is a forum for anyone wishing to take part in it to exchange opinions, not in order to identify with views, but to differ with views, not to say amen or to follow one man or a group of men, but in order to debate and discuss political, economic or social issues from time to time, to do this from time to time together. I regret to say that such forums are nonexistent or almost nonexistent; that is to say, there are no or almost no forums for the exchange of views which are not in a partisan framework. [End recording]

MINISTERS' VIEWS ON ATHERTON VISIT REPORTED

TA150847Y Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 79 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzi Benziman, HA'ARETZ political correspondent]

[Text] Differences of approach regarding the positions Israel should take during the talks to take place this week with special U.S. Envoy Alfred Atherton could be discerned yesterday at the cabinet session when, on the one hand, Ministers Moshe Dayan and 'Ezer Weizman expressed themselves in a manner which demonstrated a willingness to change the conceptions which the cabinet has held while, on the other hand, the prime minister--together with other ministers--demonstrated adherence to the currently held positions.

The verbal exchanges took place during the cabinet session following a report by the prime minister and the foreign ministers on the talks they held last week with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, during which Israel was informed of the content of the letter Egypt sent to Washington.

The prime minister and the foreign minister clarified in their report that the United States was interested in securing the success of the next stage of the negotiations in advance and that is why they examined various possibilities with respect to the structure of the contacts. Among other things, the possibility was looked into of renewing the negotiations at a ministerial level in the area of the Sinai Peninsula, but finally it was agreed that initial negotiations will be held at the level of legal experts and that it will focus on Articles IV and VI of the peace treaty. Israel will be represented by the government legal adviser, Prof Yitzhaq Zamir; the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, Dr Me'ir Rosenne; and an expert on international law from the academic community. Another person, to represent the political level (parallel to Atherton) may join the negotiations, but he will not be a minister.

Following this briefing, the following opinions were voiced at the cabinet table:

Moshe Dayan: There is a danger that the negotiations might die if both parties insist on their positions, and thus an effort which has continued for more than a year and which has been at the center of this cabinet's activities will have come to an end. All efforts should be made so that the next stage of the negotiations bears fruit. The United States is ready to have Israel maintain direct contact with Egypt without U.S. mediation, but its presence is important, if only for the economic and military aid, guarantees to insure the implementation of the agreement, the U.S. interpretation of Article VI, the supply of oil and more.

'Ezer Weizman: After 3 months of refraining from taking part in the political discussions, I think it is appropriate to say that we must not lose the opportunity to renew the negotiations with Egypt. All efforts should be made to reach direct contacts with Egypt without U.S. mediation. The Israeli approach to the negotiations should rely on a broad political concept, on the chance to generate a new spirit in the Middle East rather than focus on legalistic hairsplitting.

The defense minister is not convinced that what could have been achieved in 1977 and 1978 could also be reached in 1979, just as it is not clear whether As-Sadat's ability to be flexible this year is similar to the moderation that could be seen in him last year. He proposes an Israeli initiative to move the negotiations forward and not be dragged by U.S. or Egyptian activity. This is the time for the cabinet to decide whether it is interested in exhausting the negotiations in a positive way or not.

Yosef Burg: The cabinet must soon hold a thorough political discussion on the situation that has been created in order to decide whether and how to continue the negotiations. This discussion is called for in light of the developments in the region and in the world, and it must also include an analysis of the nature of the relations with the United States. In light of Iran's decision to stop supplying oil to Israel, our demands from Egypt on the issue of supplying oil from Sinai must be reviewed.

Shmu'el Tamir: The cabinet's stand is correct and its current stubbornness is essential. The purpose of the Israeli approach is to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state. The situation in Iran necessitates a reconsideration on our part of the problem of oil supplies from the Sinai. We must not succomb to As-Sadat's directives. This time Egypt must show flexibility and come toward us.

Hayim Landau: First of all it is necessary to discuss the autonomy plan. If we reach an understanding with Egypt concerning the autonomy rule, we will also find solutions to the various bilateral problems which are in dispute. We must not be in a hurry to initiate new moves, and the speed of the negotiations must be decreased. Israel has made enough concessions.

Ari'el Sharon: The problems in dispute between ourselves and Egypt are political and not legal. We must strive toward limiting the extent of the U.S. mediation between us and the Egyptians. First of all, it is necessary to clarify with Cairo, and at the highest level, what are its intentions concerning the autonomy in order to find out if there is a common denominator between us and it on this issue at all.

Menahem Begin: The issues at hand between ourselves and Egypt are, indeed, political, but they have a legal expression. We are right in adhering to our current positions because this way we are guarding Israel's most vital interests.

During the debate, the foreign minister proposed authorizing the Israeli team for the negotiations with Atherton to raise new proposals, as long as their initiative is subject to the cabinet's approval. However, the prime minister expressed his reservations about this proposal and made it clear that the team will only present the current Israeli position. The cabinet will hold a political debate next week, and, if necessary, will convene for a special session this week, where each minister will be able to raise new proposals which, if approved, will be forwarded to the negotiating team. Following Begin's reservations, Dayan remarked that this was what he had in mind with his proposal.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said in the debate that the state of the negotiations with Egypt is very fragile. Dayan used the English term "touch and go," to which Weizman remarked sarcastically: There were colleagues who, around this very table, several weeks ago referred to Egypt in the spirit of "take it or leave it."

NO OFFICIAL REACTION YET ON MIDEAST SUMMIT IDEA

TA151131Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said today that it is possible that after the meetings of Ambassador Atherton in the region there would be talks at a ministerial level. Begin made these remarks at a meeting with Canadian opposition leader John Clark, who is presently visiting Israel.

The prime minister reiterated that Israel cannot accept proposals that are not in keeping with the Camp David agreements. Therefore, Israel does not accept Egypt's latest proposals.

He also discussed the unification of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state and rejected any thoughts about its repartitioning. He urged his guest to act toward the transfer of Canada's Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

Our political correspondent points out that Jerusalem has not reacted officially to President Carter's remarks last night about the possibility of a summit meeting between him, President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin being held. However, Jerusalem does not reject such a possibility.

Israel prefers that the negotiations with Egypt be conducted in the region and not in Washington.

The Egyptians initially opposed lowering the level of the talks to that of experts and, during the talks with the United States, they proposed holding talks in the same format as those held in Brussels in which Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan participated. The Egyptians also proposed the alternative of a shuttle visit by the secretary of state in the region or a written questionnaire to be submitted by the Americans to Egypt and Israel on the questions in dispute. The United States has rejected all these proposals and chose a trip by Ambassador Atherton together with the U.S. State Department's legal adviser, Herbert Hansell, to examine the possibilities for continuing the negotiations.

MA'ARIV on Atherton Visit

TA1141437Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Jan 79 p 5 TA

[Shmu'el Segev commentary: "A Respite in the Negotiations for Peace"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's statement at the BAMA [Forum for Political Clarifications and Social Discussions] meeting yesterday, that he is not certain that the peace agreement with Egypt will indeed be signed, is the first public admission that Israel's "policy of peace" has run into a stalemate and that new policy concepts will be needed to further the process of negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

The foreign minister's statement yesterday was made only a few hours before Washington announced its intention to send roving Ambassador Alfred (Roy) Atherton to Jerusalem and Cairo in an effort to narrow the gaps between the parties. There is no need to get unduly excited about this mission. In view of the wide gap that has developed in the positions of the parties, and particularly in view of the events in Iran, the United States prefers to avail itself of a "respite" before resuming its peace efforts full speed. It is particularly the developments in Iran that dictate a more sober assessment of the situation. Roy Atherton's mission to Israel generates the feeling of a "continuous momentum," but all parties are well aware that the issues will not be decided on the level of a "roving ambassador" and that a higher level meeting will be necessary to further the peace efforts in our region.

Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to dismiss altogether the value of Atherton's mission to the Middle East. After the failure of the Washington Blair House talks last November, the United States discerned a clear tendency on the part of Israel and Egypt to "flee" from the peace talks; despite all the public declarations to the contrary, Israel has no intention of implementing the autonomy plan it proposed, and it is seeking "elegant" ways for evading it.

The less than serious attitude displayed by the Government of Israel toward the plans for a solution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has become its undoing, and it is now facing a united opposition front in every political camp in Israel. Surveys undertaken by various circles show that the cabinet is liable to receive a decisive blow in the Knesset if it brings its autonomy plan for approval there.

But President as-Sadat is now also seeking ways to slow down the momentum of the negotiations. When the president of Egypt made his initiative, his assumption was that he would certainly succeed in drawing in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Despite the Israeli Cabinet's naive belief to the contrary, As-Sadat has never thought about a "separate settlement," but he was sure his leadership would suffice to make other Arab countries follow suit. That hope has now been dashed.

The crisis in Iran made the Egyptian president realize precisely the danger hidden in a coalition of fanatic Muslim clericals with radical progressive forces, and he fears a similar uprising in his own country. The Iranian crisis constitutes a golden opportunity for As-Sadat to request a "respite" in order to examine the situation in view of developments in the Persian Gulf. Accordingly, the president of Egypt declared last week that the peace talks with Israel are no longer at the top of his scale of priorities and that Egypt's social development and economic rehabilitation should be dealt with before the peace talks.

The United States is of course aware of these trends, and hence its decision to send roving ambassador Alfred Atherton to Jerusalem and Cairo. When Tehran is going up in flames and when Saudi Arabia is "keeping its distance" and trying to formulate a policy independent of the United States, President Carter deems it necessary to safeguard all U.S. positions in the Middle East and is doing his utmost to keep his positions in Egypt by maintaining the peace momentum with Israel.

The fact that the Government of Israel submitted a plan for a solution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which it does not intend to implement does not mean that the Israeli Government is obliged to stick to that plan at all costs. Begin's cabinet should therefore be given the chance for a gradual withdrawal from its plans. Notwithstanding the ensuing loss of face or even the possibility that the prime minister will find himself forced to resign in order to evade implementation of the autonomy plan, this is much better than a situation where Israel's fate would be decided according to regional interests or as a result of poor thinking or a blunder which had been committed at one point. And if this is made fully and candidly clear to Ambassador Atherton, then this alone may make the U.S. roving ambassador's visit worthwhile.

MK KOHEN ASKS CABINET TO REASSESS U.S. TIES, DISCUSS IRAN

TA141859Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The chairwoman of the Knesset 'Aliyah and Absorption Committee, Ge'ula Kohen, has called on the cabinet to suspend the talks with the U.S. administration and to reassess the Camp David accords against the bakcground of the Iranian crisis.

In a cable to the prime minister, Ge'ula Kohen says it is shocking that the cabinet has not found it necessary to allocate even one session to the effect of the Iranian crisis on Israel.

MINISTER MODA'I ON DISPUTE WITH EGYPT OVER SINAI OIL

TA142022Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Energy Minister Yizhaq Moda'i said this evening that Egypt is in principle ready to supply us with oil from the Sinai wells that will be returned to it if a peace treaty is signed. Minister Moda'i said that the argument with the Egyptians is not over principles but over the quantity of oil [Israel wants Egypt to sell it]. He was speaking at the Country Club Hotel.

Moda'is said that the signing of the peace agreement does not depend on the oil problem in the Sinai but on the problems of the eastern front.

CABINET APPROVES MINISTERIAL RESHUFFLE

NC141228Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Text] This morning, the cabinet approved Menahem Begin's proposal concerning the cabinet reshuffle--particularly the manning of ministries which have been vacant until now. The cabinet vote was 12 for, 3 against and 1 abstention. The votes against the reshuffle came from the NRP, while Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon abstained.

Gid'on Pat will now be the minister of industry, commerce and tourism. The Ministry of Construction and Housing, which was manned by Mr Pat, will now go to Minister David Levy. Minister Levy will continue to fill the post of minister of absorption until a decision is made concerning the supreme absorption authority.

The communications portfolio, which was vacant, will be given to the minister of energy and infrastructure, Yitzhaq Moda'i, while the portfolio of the Ministry of Transportation will be given to Minister Hayim Landau. Tomorrow these changes will be submitted to the Knesset.

During the cabinet meeting, the prime minister and the foreign minister also reviewed recent political developments, then held a debate on this subject.

The defense minister reviewed the terrorist infiltration into Ma'alot.

After the cabinet meeting the cabinet secretary said the issue of settlements was not raised during the meeting. According to him, reports that were published on the subject this morning are unfounded and imaginary.

TALMI WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION FROM MAPAM LEADERSHIP

TA141826Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Jan 79 TA

[Text] MAPAM Secretary Me'ir Talmi has withdrawn his resignation, but demands that a replacement for him be found soon. He announced his decision at the end of a MAPAM Center meeting at which the crisis in the party was discussed.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that it is assessed in MAPAM that Talmi will not resign his job as long as the part is divided over the issue of the future of the Alinement.

On Wednesday, the MAPAM Secretariat will decide whether to hold the party convention next month, at which the future of the Alinement will be discussed, or to postone the convention.

DAYAN OPPOSED TO ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENT NEAR NABULUS

TA131532Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said he would oppose the founding of a town near Nabulus should such a proposal be broached in the cabinet. He hopes that most of the cabinet members will also oppose the proposal.

Answering questions summing up the discussion in a forum for political and social clarifications held at Kefar Hamacabiyah, Dayan noted that establishing a town near Nabulus would be a folly lacking in political wisdom as well as settlement policy wisdom. The real plight of the settlement drive is a lack of settlers, money and sources for earning a livelihood in the settlements that have already been established.

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE DECIDES TO SET UP NEW SETTLEMENTS

NC140723Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The Ministerial Committee for Settlements has decided to set up four settlements in Judaea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley. The Jewish Agency Settlements Department has been asked to draw up the details in preparation for putting the decision into effect.

The new settlements will be set up in the region of Bet El north of Ramallah, in Ma'aleh Adumim, in the region of Qarnei Shomron and in the area near Meholah north of the Jordan Valley.

The possibility of setting up three settlements in the area of Nabi Salih will also be looked into.

The chairman of the committee, Ari'el Sharon, told our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that the decisions have been made within the context of the current activities to extend the present settlements and because of the social needs that arose in some of the settlements. Minister Sharon added that, according to the government plan, Qarnei Shomron will be turned into an urban center in the future in which 20,000 to 30,000 inhabitants will reside, and 250 apartments will also be built for a new nucleus which will be set up in the area. Minister Sharon said that settlement activities in the territories are continuing and that, among other things, new water pipes are being installed for the new settlements. He added that the paving of latitudinal and longtitudinal roads is also continuing.

More on Settlements

NC140725Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] The Ministerial Committee for Settlements has decided to set up four settlements in Judaea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley. The spokesman for Minister Sharon, who heads the ministerial committee, said that reference is made not to new settlements but to additional settlers and that this decision is in accordance with the government decision.

Three MK's who belong to the SHAY Movement, Toledano, Vershuvsky and Atshi, have sent a letter to the prime minister in which they demand the restoration of the government's authority on the subject of new settlements. They say it is not reasonable that a delicate subject that has international implications such as the settlements issue should be left in the hands of a ministerial committee. They assert that this committee is headed by a minister whose reasoning and judgment have, to date, caused only harm to Israel's peace efforts.

Settlements in Galilee

NC141258Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The Jewish National Fund [JNF] has started work on an infrastructure for paving roads in the Galilee in order to establish 28 small settlements that will be called mitzpim [observatories].

The inhabitants of these settlements will be integrated in the supervision of state-owned lands in the Galilee.

The director of the JNF land development, Meiir Shamir, told our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that nine of these settlements will be ready in 2 months and that in the near future the JNF will invite the citizens to come and settle in these settlements.

The JNF has allocated more than 200 million Israeli pounds for the establishment of these settlements.

LABOR PARTY BUREAU TOURS JORDAN VALLEY SETTLEMENTS

TA141707Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The members of the Labor Party Bureau toured the Jordan Valley today and heard from the director of the Zionist federation settlement section, Shim'on Ravid, that the element restricting the development of settlement in the Jordan Valley now is money.

The commander of the central command, Maj Gen Moshe Levi, told the Labor Party Bureau members that the settlements in the Jordan Valley, Judaea and Samaria today constitute a power that will assist in the defense of the area in case of a confrontation. Major General Levi believes that from a security point of view it is desirable to form a belt of settlements in the Jordan Valley.

The Labor Party Bureau convened in Kibbutz Qalya near the Dead Sea in the afternoon. Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres said that even if autonomy is established, the Labor Party is of the opinion that Israel should insist on defensible borders on the eastern front.

BAKHTIAR PRESENTS GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO SENATE

LD131526Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar has presented his government's program to the Senate and introduced the members of his cabinet to the senators. The Senate held an open session at 1000 today under the chairmanship of Dr Mohammad Sajjadi during which Senators Musavi and Jalali-Nai'ini made preliminary speeches. Then Dr Bakhtiar expounded the government's program for the benefit of the senators:

[Bakhtiar--begin recording] The honorable president of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen: In the country's present crisis, which has darkened the horizon of our hopes, it is a cause for great pride to me to be here today in the Senate, the members of which are the oldest servants of this land, and say a few words about the disturbed situation in our country which has come to the present dangerous pass thanks to the wrong policies and lack of attention of various governments over the last 25 years.

By utilizing the international situation during the past quarter of a century and making use of the financial capabilities placed at the disposal of the governments of the time by the country's oil resources, Iran--and this is without any exaggeration whatsoever--could have been turned into a powerful, healthy industrial and agricultural country. But I must say with the greatest regret, a government which had an annual oil revenue of $22 billion is now in a sorry financial plight. The details of this do not come within the scope of this address, and I will not permit myself to mention them in this esteemed meeting.

Lack of faith in and insults to its sacred religious and moral foundations, suppression and bullying, discrimination and corruption so disturbed our society that most of the members of this society, particularly the younger generation, have been beset by frustration and rebellion. Experienced statesmen are contemplating what should be done. Those intellectuals who have a mission to carry out are groping for a path of salvation so that we may attain freedom and build a world whereby only the Iranian will be the master of Iran, without returning to the bullying and corruption of the past and without the country becoming fragmented, while at the same time Iran should enjoy independence and security.

The plots of the foreigner and his agents, on the one hand, and the lack of a realistic policy based on national interests thanks to those in power on the other, have compounded the country's ills and have completely disrupted its affairs.

Ladies and gentlemen, an empty treasury, financial indigence, the bankruptcy of the private sector, general strikes, strikes by government organizations, rebellion by the younger generation, the anger of lecturers and teachers, the frustrations of students and pupils, plots and machinations by foreigners and their agents to further disrupt the situation and, above all, a nation in mourning--these constitute the inheritance received by your obedient servant from previous governments. But in order to save my nation and country from this disorder I not only have a need, a crucial need, for the support and cooperation of my entire patriotic nation, but I entertain the hope for the help, assistance and benevolent prayers of their lofty eminences the ayatollahs and also of those leaders with a religious mission. And even if from head to foot they were the embodiment of faith in and love for the homeland, without the support and cooperation of the majority of the patriotic and religious nation I cannot succeed; and it is then that we, all of us, should worry about the future.

When I accept this grave responsibility I am acquainted with all its problems and issues. In this dear assembly I undertake to consecrate all my powers, without the least vacillation in my faith or hesitation in my thoughts, to the struggle for the preservation of independence and the country's territorial integrity, and not to shrink from any task toward the realization of the just rights of the Iranian nation, even at the cost of my life. [applause]

Now, with the permission of the honorable president, I wish to bring to your attention the government's immediate program:

The dissolution of the Organization for National Intelligence and Security [SAVAK] and its replacement with an intelligence apparatus to serve the independence and security of the country and the nation;

A swift trial of the plunderers and transgressors against the rights of the nation, either via existing courts or by formulating and introducing the requisite laws to the two houses of parliament with the aim of setting up a national court with special powers;

The appointment of an impartial commission to investigate the past activities and the service records of SAVAK agents and the handing over of offenders to the judiciary authorities for trial and punishment for their deeds;

The unconditional release of all political prisoners--provided their guilt is political--whose imprisonment has been contrary to the constitution and in whose cases the legitimacy of the courts which condemned them were in question, provided it is proven that this power was outside their jurisdiction;

The restoration of the reputation of all political prisoners who have been apprehended from or since 19 August 1953;

The paying of reasonable compensation by the government to all those guilty of political offenses who have served a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year consecutively or who have been tortured for political offenses and suffered the loss of a limb since 1953;

The payment of the appropriate compensation by the government to the under-age and dependent survivors of all those who have lost their lives in the so-called security jails since 1953;

The gradual abolition of martial law, while winning the cooperation of the esteemed religious authorities in those cities where martial law is in force;

Officially declaring those killed recently for political reasons as martyrs through legislation by the houses of parliament;

The payment of compensation by the government to the families of the martyrs and those who have lost a limb in the recent struggles;

Putting an end to the strikes with the cooperation of the religious authorities and the competent intellectuals and all the workers and craftsmen in the country;

Paving the way for close cooperation between the government and the spiritual community in such a manner as to enable their lofty eminences the ayatollahs to supervise the proper conduct of affairs;

The repair of recent destruction and the reactivation of the country's day-to-day affairs;

The reactivation of the country's productive affairs and improving the economic situation;

Planning in order to bring about free elections at various levels, from the village councils to the town councils, free municipal elections and, finally, elections to the National Consultative Assembly and the Senate;

The expulsion of all surplus foreign staff and foreign workers who have entered Iran without our permission;

Bringing about social security under the protection of the law.

Now for the government's foreign policy:

This government's foreign policy is based on a plan of correct understanding of domestic and foreign realities, truthfulness in international relations and patent candor.

The main guidelines of the government's foreign policy, which are firmly based on the above principles, shall consist of:

1. Expanding and strengthening political, economic and cultural relations with the Islamic countries.

2. Maintaining and developing relations with all the world governments, particularly our neighbors, on the basis of mutual respect, noninterference in each other's affairs, peaceful coexistence with full regard for the Iranian nation's supreme interests.

In the light of the common features and ties which the Iranian nation shares with the developing nations, the Iranian government will make appreciable efforts to expand its relations with these countries.

Since the advancement of economic and social development plans and thus the realization of the aspirations of the Iranian nation necessitate the existence of peace and tranquillity in international relations, the Iranian Government will support every attempt and effort aimed at international detente.

In other words, the government will not interfere in international disputes and conflicts in an irrational and immature manner and will not add further foreign problems to those of its national policy.

The Iranian Government's policy consists of unconditional support for the principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant agreements; and toward achieving this aim it will endeavor to safeguard and protect human rights to help toward the realization of the legitimate demands of nations on a course which will liberate them from the shackles of any type of colonialism.

In the sphere of eliminating racial discrimination and struggling against apartheid, whereas the UN General Assembly has often condemned the course of the racist regimes in South Africa, the Iranian Government, without any regard for special considerations, will take serious steps, act on the basis of United Nations General Assembly resolutions and will revise as far as necessary its relations with South Africa, including the fact that we will stop the sale of oil to South Africa.

As regards the Middle East questions, the Iranian Government will express the utmost solidarity with its Arab brothers and will render full support to them, particularly to the Palestinian nation toward the realization of their just rights; and, as in the case of South Africa, we will stop the sale of oil to Israel.

In order to carry out the aforementioned principles the government should completely revise its diplomatic organization, which in effect carries out and implements foreign policy, in order to eliminate negative elements and obstacles which existed in the past such as law-breaking, discrimination, lack of restraint, the embezzlement of government funds, the fact that whom you know should come before what is right according to the rules.

My government is firmly resolved to reform in a fundamental manner the realm's diplomatic apparatus and, in order to carry out its foreign policy, of whose principles I have already begged to inform you, will utilize all capabilities.

My government undertakes to put an end to law-breaking within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the nonobservance of the provisions of the organization's lawful constitution and to submit as soon as possible other bills toward the perfection of the said constitution as laid down by the constitution itself. [end recording]

Then the prime minister referred to the judiciary and its independence and announced its salient points as follows:

[Bakhtiar--begin recording] Safeguarding individual and social freedom, that is, the freedom of thought, speech and the press, within the context of the constitution of the country; the restoration of the status of the judiciary and safeguarding its independence; noninterference by the government in the affairs of commerce, except for planning, guidance and control--I would beg to say with regret that certain legal and judicial matters have been mixed with other issues about which the gentlemen present themselves already know--government noninterference in the affairs of industry, except the steel industry, oil, gas, and radioactive materials for industry with the sole aim of planning and guidance; decentralization in all the country's affairs and the reorganization of the governorates general in order to prepare to respond effectively to this program; safeguarding the welfare of government employees by adjusting salaries and guaranteeing them a minimum for livelihood as well as raising the work efficiency of employees; consistent struggle against corruption, whether within the government apparatus or within the private sector; scheduled planning and its implementation toward the self-sufficiency of agriculture, which has declined, and stockbreeding in the country; tough and comprehensive struggle against inflation; an effective implementation of a program of social security and making these programs correspond with the government's real capabilities.

Before presenting the details of the government's long-term program I would like to draw the attention of the esteemed representatives to the following two subjects:

1. In order to prevent any unwarranted interference by the government in the affairs of the universities and in order to secure their true independence, the Ministry of Sciences and Higher Education will be dissolved in my government and will be replaced by a department within the prime minister's office in order to plan and coordinate universities and institutes of higher learning and in order to insure their budget, bearing in mind the requirements of higher education in the country. Toward this end a bill will be formulated with the help of the esteemed university professors and presented to the Majlis.

2. In order to prevent any duplication and confusion of responsibilities, the plan and budget organization should be reorganized and revised as far as possible so as to meet only the country's budget formulations needs and to bring executive affairs under control to an extent which will be [words indistinct] control and noninterference.

The program of action of the other ministries, the ministers responsible for which have not yet been introduced, will be submitted later to the honorable president of the Senate Majlis. [end recording]

The prime minister then introduced the cabinet members to the Senate.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN POLICY

LD131333Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Interview with Iranian Foreign Minister Ahmad Mir-Fendereski by Tehran Radio's diplomatic correspondent Fereydun Pezezhgan; time and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Considering your background, the various posts you have held, which included the post of acting foreign minister, and the fact that you have held ambassadorial posts in various countries, especially in the USSR, could you please comment on Prime Minister Bakhtiar's foreign policy changes, now that you are foreign minister?

[Answer] I should be asking my compatriots this question through you, asking their views about the prime minister's foreign policy which was prepared with my assistance and the conduct of which is entrusted to me as the head of Iranian diplomacy. However, to answer your question, the basis of Iran's foreign policy, as pointed out by the prime minister, is the protection of our territorial integrity, independence, sovereignty and national security. Basically, foreign policy is a reflection of internal policy; internal policy is composed of environmental circumstances, the people's aspirations and society's tendencies. In this regard, I must point out that we are an Islamic nation and naturally we must have not only close diplomatic relations but close social and cultural relations with coreligious countries.

Besides, governed by geopolitics, we must pursue a relationship with our neighbors based on noninterference, mutual respect and mutual interests in an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence, taking cognizance of the sublime interests of the Iranian people.

As for the Middle East, obviously we shall establish the closest possible cooperation and shall support the Palestinians' struggle. This is for two reasons: one, because they have legitimate claims, and support for justice is always warranted; and, two, as long as the Palestinians' problem is not settled, the Middle East, especially the Arab countries of the region, will not see peace.

As for one of the principles of Prime Minister Bakhtiar's foreign policy, I should discuss this separately. This principle is: In the international arena, whether we like it or not, we shall encounter disputes and problems between countries. Considering the multidimensional policy adopted by this government, there is no question of unconditional support for one side of the dispute against the other. On the contrary, mature and rational views will be expressed and implemented accordingly. All measures will be aimed at relaxation of tension and detente. This does not mean that we will ignore, even for a moment, the sublime interests of the nation, of Iran; we will never do this.

[Question] At one stage you held the post of his imperial majesty's ambassador to the USSR. As far as I am concerned, you are fully familiar with the Russian language. What is Iran's policy under Prime Minister Bakhtiar toward the Eastern bloc, especially the USSR?

[Answer] This government will try to expand the existing friendly relations between Iran and the Eastern bloc on the basis of noninterference, mutual respect and mutual interest in an atmosphere of coexistence and perhaps mutual cooperation.

[Question] Mr Bakhtiar, while introducing his government, referred to South Africa. What is the Foreign Ministry's views regarding Iran's future policy concerning apartheid, racism?

[Answer] As you know, we are an active member of the United Nations. The United Nation's General Assembly has repeatedly condemned apartheid and regimes based on discrimination--condemnations which could be defined as parallel progress. Not only have we been a part of these resolutions but we were also one of the initiators. The point is that apartheid is not compatible with moral principles and perceptions. One could say that apartheid is the last trace of the colonial era; we believe it must be abolished and the African nations must achieve their goal, which is the liberation of the great population of South African people from the yoke of apartheid. This does not mean they should [words indistinct].

[Question] Could you comment on the Iranian Government's relations with these countries?

[Answer] I can tell you that the Iranian Government will not take any step to strengthen the domination of supporters of apartheid.

[Question] As Mr Bakhtiar pointed out, South Africa receives 90 percent of its oil requirement from Iran; do you mean to say that you will not supply oil to South Africa?

[Answer] There is no doubt about it. When I say no step will be taken to strengthen it, oil is part of it. Certain other measures will also be taken in the future.

[Question] In his speech Mr Bakhtiar referred to ending the violation of laws in the Foreign Ministry. What violations have taken place in the Foreign Ministry to warrant Mr Bakhtiar's remarks?

[Answer] This is not peculiar to the Foreign Ministry; similar situations have occurred in all government departments. However, since the Foreign Ministry is smaller and more prominent, these shortcomings are more tangible there. In recent years, discrimination, undue expenditures, lack of restraint and inefficiency were some of the phenomena witnessed there.

Sychophancy, flattery, overriding domination of special relations and overdoing all led to turmoil and anxiety as well as frustration for a great many employees of this ministry, especially the youth. For example, such elements as SAVAK agents had infilterated this organization; by resorting to intimidation, threat and prejudice they have engaged in certain activities which some day will be explained. However, every effort will be made to clean up this organization in the future.

Thank you, Mr Foreign Minister, for your time.

MAJLIS BEGINS DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

LD141115Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Majlis began its debate on the Bakhtiar government's program at 0900 today, attended by the prime minister and the members of the cabinet. Speaker Dr Javad Sa'id, in a brief speech, said: The Iranian Army enjoys the nation's respect. The army is the guardian of the country's independence and integrity as well as its borders. I am therefore asking the head of the government to find solutions to prevent in as decisive manner as possible any clashes between the army and the people.

He went on: In his government program, Dr Bakhtiar refers to freedom of thought, press and expression. I am pleased that the country's press is now free. I hope that measures will be taken to eliminate discontent in the radio and television services as well, thus enabling the personnel of this organization to continue their national duty to disseminate public information.

Opposition Deputy

LD141252Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Speech by Deputy Qorbani-Nasab, constituency unspecified, head of the Iranian Workers Organization, in the Majlis debate on the new Iranian Government's projected program--live]

[Excerpt] Mr Prime Minister, your government has no clear program in respect to freedom of political parties. However, you referred to this in your radio speech; and I quote: All political parties which are not illegal may resume their activities. Banned groups, too, may join others, providing they have no dependence on other countries; this will be done after investigation.

What are these "provisions," this "legality or illegality," whether it depends or not upon foreigners? This is the same problem which has hitherto been handled by the executive, rather than by the judiciary, and this is the sort of approach which led to the repression of the National Front and the Iran Party.

As for your government's foreign policy, you have raised certain points which, to a greater or lesser extent, have been raised in the programs of previous governments. Mr Prime Minister, the U.S. Government, by frightening the Iranian people with the specters of their neighbors, by selling us used weapons at exhorbitant prices, has poured billions of rials into the pockets of U.S. military cartels. Each month we are paying millions of rials in salaries to U.S. military experts.

While the Iranian people are demanding that the United States release its grip from around our throat, your government, which is championing the principles of nationalism, has not only not made the slightest reference to reviewing your relations with the United States, but has even expressed ignorance of the presence of U.S. General Huyser in Iran. The Iranian people do not understand how the prime minister can hear about the presence of armed Afghanis in the streets of Tehran, and yet remain ignorant of the presence of a U.S. general.

For your information, I wish to point out that the newspaper KEYHAN carries the following: The U.S. State Department has announced that the deputy commander of U.S. forces in Europe has gone to Iran to advise the Iranian military leaders to support the civilian government in their country. As a worker I was really disappointed, as I believe that the army are our brothers. They are more concerned about their country than this U.S. general.

You have included another point in your program which is of some interest to me, and that is securing the national independence. Mr Prime Minister, I must inform you that Iran's national independence is shouldered by the Iranian people and the Iranian Army; it has nothing to do with General Huyser.

Relay of Majlis Debate

LD141552 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1045 GMT on 14 January carries a live relay from the Majlis on the proceedings of the debate on the projected program of the new government of Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar.

The relay starts with a speech by Majlis Deputy Eftekhari, who speaks in opposition to the government. He speaks about the general situation in the country and also questions the government on its vagueness about SAVAK, the state security organizaton, and why there would be any need for another organization to replace it after SAVAK itself is abolished, as the prime minister had promised.

Eftekhari continues by commenting on the freedom of the press, and notes his pleasure that it has been restored. He notes that demonstrations are continuing throughout the country against the existing government, adding that the clergy have not yet expressed support for the government and that Bakhtiar himslef has been expelled from the National Front.

The live relay continues with a speech by Deputy Qorbani-Nasah. He begins by saying he feels obliged to say that Dr Bakhtiar's proposed government program is similar to those of former Prime Minister Sharaif-Emami and Azhari. The conditions of the workers, he says, are highly unsatisfactory, for they have no security. He notes that Dr Bakhtiar's government has not proposed to do anything about this, but has only referred to the condition of the redundant foreign workers. Deputy Qorbani-Nasah adds that Dr Bakhtiar has expressed his belief in the religious leaders and the National Front, yet neither has supported him. Indeed, the National Front has expelled him. However, Dr Bakhtiar does accept the principle of the revolution: even General Azhari has the sense to do that, the deputy says.

He goes on to say that Dr Bakhtiar claims that all political parties, with the exception of those which have links with foreign countries, will be allowed to take part in political activities. But who is to decide whether such a link exists, the deputy asks. He goes on to discuss the presence in Iran of U.S. General Huyser.

After Qorbani-Nasab's speech, Deputies Dowlati and Eshaqi-Nejhad, the latter from Tabriz, speak about the government's program from the opposition viewpoint. Eshaqi-Nejhad says that the Iranian people want freedom and that the members of the armed forces are "our brothers." He ends by demanding an end to martial law throughout the country, so that the army can be sent to the border areas. He also demands the release of political prisoners and immediate freedom for the radio and television services.

Deputy (Z'emi) from Abadeh speaks in favor of the government program, saying that Iranians want a constitutional monarchy. He wishes the government all success.

An unidentified deputy says that the revolution has not been staged by the Iranian people so that Dr Bakhtiar may become prime minister. "You have been expelled by the National Front," the deputy tells him, and from the Iran Party, and therefore "you have no base."

He goes on to say that there are rumors that a coup may be staged, but he asks who is to stage this coup, adding that the army will never do this, because the armed forces are the brothers of the Iranian people. If blood has been shed, one should not immediately jump to conclusions, one should not generalize. And as for the disintegration of the country, neither the Iranian people nor the army will allow it.

When the unidentified deputy claims at this point that as a student he used to fight in the ranks of the National Front, an uproar occurs apparently due to members protesting this claim. The speaker interrupts and the deputy continues to question the ability of the government to carry out its program and to normalize the situation in the country. He also criticizes the government for including certain ministers in its cabinet, and he adds that three of these ministers have held posts in, or had links with, previous administrations.

Another unidentified deputy begins by talking about the Iranian people's movement led and inspired by the clergy, following 25 years of corruption throughout the country, and he says that the current situation is the direct result of repression by various governments. The deputy cites in detail the widespread corruption over the years, attributing the decline in agriculture to it. He says that the country's problems are economic, that the rate of inflation is incredible, and that the factories are at a standstill. He strongly advises the government to punish those found guilty of corruption, saying that the former Azhari government failed because it did nothing about this problem. The deputy concludes by saying that he will be voting against the government.

At 1356 GMT, the radio announcer says there will be a break in the live relay for evening prayers and the daily sermon.

More on Majlis Debate

LD141705 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1415 GMT on 14 January carries recorded excerpts from speeches by two deputies in the Majlis debate on the projected program by the new government of Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar.

As the recording begins, a speech by an unidentified deputy is already in progress. He tells the prime minister that he faces great responsibility and a great deal of opposition. However, the deputy says he himself is sure that as soon as people realize what Dr Bakhtiar is trying to achieve, they will join him. In fact, he continues, anyone who undertakes to adhere to and implement the letter of the constitution will have the support of the nation. Former regimes, the deputy continues, maintained a form of deception: In order to give an entirely erroneous impression abroad, government officials in the past used to print a newspaper in the name of the Kurdish people and send it to other countries.

At this point there follows a break in transmission for 9 minutes. When the recording resumes, the same speaker is talking.

The deputy says that the people will only be satisfied when the corrupt have been punished, and there are corrupt people everywhere--among the demonstrators, in the Foreign Ministry, in the Ministry of Agriculture, and so forth. This is a very onerous task for the prime minister, the deputy concludes.

Next a speech is given by Deputy Hariri, of an unspecified constituency, who says that one of the country's main problems, according to sociologists, is its Westernization, and he says that no one, no official, has shown any real interest in solving this problem. Unfortunately, previous governments have always interfered too much in every aspect of the lives of the people; in short, there was too much government. As a result of the Westernization plans of these governments and of the way they went about this task, a certain alienation ensued and the Iranian people turned away, totally disillusioned. What these governments tried to do, the deputy says, was to do away with the identity of the Iranian people. The West's materialistic and epicurean philosophy and civilization are alien to the Iranian people, who are more at home with their Islamic precepts. The Iranian people condemn colonialism of any type.

As for the corruption and the campaign against it, the deputy says he is happy to be able to say that during the periods of the former governments he himself spoke about the need for this campaign. At present, he says, when the religious leaders and the clergy are playing a leading role, only a government supported by the clergy and the nation can succeed. The deputy concludes by saying that as he does not see any immediate prospect for this, he will vote against the government.

TEHRAN REPORTS REGENCY COUNCIL OFFICIALLY CONSTITUTED

LD142022Y Tehran in English to Europe 2000 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Regency Council to [word indistinct] country during the absence of his imperial majesty the shahanshah has been officially constituted. The council will consist of the following nine members:

Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, prime minister;
Dr Mohammad Sajjadi, Senate president;
Dr Javad Sa'id, Majlis speaker;
Mr 'Ali Qoli Ardalan, court minister;
Dr 'Abdol Hoseyn 'Aliabadi, former prosecutor general;
Mr Seyyed Jamaleddin Tehrani, a clergyman;
Mr Mohammad 'Ali Varasteh, former finance minister;
Mr 'Abdollah Entezam, chairman of NIOC;
Gen 'Abbas Qarabaghi, chief of the supreme commander's staff of the armed forces.

BAKHTIAR GOVERNMENT RECEIVES VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

LD151048Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Bakhtiar government received a vote of confidence at the Senate session which met at 0900 this morning under President Mohammad Sajjadi. The voting was 38 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

BAKHTIAR SAYS MOST CLERGY DO NOT OPPOSE HIM

LD151120Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Answering remarks made by Senator Jalali Na'ini in today's Senate session, Prime Minister Shalpur Bakhtiar said: What you have said concerned former governments; this is what I have been saying for the past 25 years. Dr Bakhtiar added: I accepted responsibility at a time when the country had reached a political and economic impasse. Had it not been for such a state of affairs, I am certain they would not have appointed me prime minister. However, what can one do? It is not right to run away from responsibility. Any Iranian who enjoys the blessings of this country also bears certain responsibilities.

My first democratic action was to seek a vote of approval from the houses of parliament for I believe that the country's parliament must have a decisive, definite and effective role in appointing the prime minister.

Dr Bakhtiar went on: As for the events of the past 25 years in the country, I do not believe there is anyone who is more aware of them than me. The prime minister who is standing before you now managed to save his own life 11 months ago during an anti-Rastakhiz [zedd-e Rastakhiz] plot, though he had an arm broken.

Commenting on his relations with the clergy, the prime minister said: I am in contact with most of their eminences; if they do not hold favorable views, they do not hold unfavorable views either.

Addressing the senators, Dr Bakhtiar said: I am in touch with His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni; his opposition is not directed against me personally.

The prime minister added: As long as Israel refuses to settle its differences with our Muslim brothers, not only will I not supply it with a drop of oil, not only will I not send an ambassador or consul to that country, but I will definitely react unfavorably toward the Israeli or any other aggressive government.

BAKHTIAR INTERVEIWED BY FRENCH RADIO

TA141515Y Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 14 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Paris, Jan 14 (AFP)--Iranian Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar affirmed in a radio interview broadcast here today that his government would "not be swept aside" by religious forces in Iran when the shah leaves there, although he expected that those forces would exert considerable pressure.

Mr Bakhtiar, interviewed by French radio station Europe One from Tehran, said, "I am too heavy to be swept away. In other words, one does not sweep aside a government. I will maintain my position, as I have always said."

Asked whether he would defer to opposition religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni if he returned to Iran from exile, Mr Bakhtiar replied that political affairs did not defer to a religious figure. The ayatollah was a "very great religious figure respected by the Iranian people" but "not a political figure," the premier said.

Mr Bakhtiar said the shah would leave Iran "very soon" but that he could not give any details about his departure or where he would go. He did not fear a coup d'etat after the shah's departure, he added, affirming that "the army does not act politically but it will support the government."

FINANCE MINISTER PIRASTEH ON MONETARY RESERVES

OW150141Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0125 GMT 15 Jan 79 OW

[Text] Tehr n, 15 Jan (AFP)--Iran still has 11 to 12 thousand million dollars in monetary reserves despite the oil industry and customs strikes which were costing the nation more than 100 million dollars a day, new Economics and Finance Minister Rostam Pirasteh told AFP yesterday in an exclusive interview.

But Mr Pirasteh said there was no need to dramatize the situation and that the confidence of international banking circles in Iran would be reestablished quickly with the resumption of oil exports.

He also said plans for building nuclear power stations in Iran might be "revised very profoundly." This was because of the country's enormous reserves of natural gas which made it more sensible to build electricity plants using gas rather than the far more expensive nuclear installations, Mr Pirasteh said.

He also criticized openly the economic planning policies of the previous government and said he intended to prepare a short-term plan to revive industry. "All of Iranian industry is practically paralyzed, either by strikes or a lack of energy. To get it going again will require a lot of time.

"The halt to foreign and local investment for the moment has resulted in unemployment reaching catastrophic proportions," he said.

Mr Pirasteh said priority should be given to revitalizing small industries and to local investment. He promised foreign investors "reasonable profits, fiscal advantages and guarantees of their capital." But he warned investors they would "no longer be able to operate as before."

TEHRAN: KEROSENE, GASOLINE SUPPLIES IMPROVING

LD131306Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Following the notable shortage of kerosene throughout Iran which coincided with the monolithic strike by National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] workers and staff, we now have a report that the production and distribution of kerosene and of other petroleum products will gradually return to normal and, most probably, the kerosene will be in sufficient supply in a few days time to meet consumers' requirements. According to a responsible and informed NIOC official, the present level of production and distribution of kerosene is sufficient for the needs of consumers. However, because of panic buying, long lines can be seen outside filling stations which sell kerosene, giving the impression that kerosene supplies are not sufficient to meet the people's needs.

Regarding the level of gasoline needed by the people, the official noted that gasoline production and supply has not yet reached the figure of 100 percent for the consumer market. The official expressed the hope that this shortage will also be made up by the end of this week. It is said that between 50 to 70 percent of the people's gasoline requirements are being supplied by NIOC filling stations.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON POWER CUTS, SHORTAGES

LD132213Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Ministry of Power tonight announced the cause of today's power cuts in Tehran and other cities as follows:

At 1510 today, owing to the tearing of one of [word indistinct] and problems on the powerline between Arak and the Firuzbahram of Tehran station, the national power network experienced disruption, and a power shortage was experienced from Ahvaz to Tabriz. The Ministry of Power auxiliary forces were immediately sent to the spot and are trying to eliminate the fault. In order to make up for this shortage, use is being made at present of the surplus capacity of the national power network; it is hoped that the fault will be eliminated by midnight tonight.

Because of the fuel shortage, the Noshan and Shahi power plants went out of the national power network. Similarly, because of difficulties in the national power grid, the city of Tabriz is facing power cuts and failure; only two gas power units in this city are operating.

TEHRAN UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR ON REOPENING OF UNIVERSITY

LD131024Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Following the announcement by the National Organization of the Iranian University Staff on the timing of the reopening of universities, the members of this organization, the universities' scientific council and institutes of higher education have begun extensive efforts for the reopening of these institutions. So far, in addition to Tehran University and the National University of Science and Industry, and the Pars High School, a number of other institutes of higher learning have announced the date they will reopen.

The National Organization of Iranian University Staff has called for the support of various classes of people for the reopening of universities, and a group of political and religious leaders has announced their participation in the reopening of universities in response to this invitation.

Discussing the reopening of Tehran University today Dr 'Abdollah Sheybani, the chancellor of the university, said: [begin recording]

It has been a cause of great regret that Tehran University, a great cultural center, has been closed and silent for some time and not on holiday. Thank God everyone's heart will be gladdened today. And I beg all those who welcome the opening, who are either coming to the university or are observing matters from afar, to display the utmost self-restraint and dignity which are due to this sacred campus with the hope that classes will be resumed in a few days--God willing--or by the end of this week or the beginning of next week so that university studies may begin. I also hope that we will be able to make up for the loss of 1 or 2 months of classes. [end recording]

GATHERING ATTENDS REOPENING OF TEHRAN UNIVERSITY

LD131126Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Following the announcement of the reopening of Tehran University, over 40,000 people of various classes participated in the ceremony to reopen this university.

At the ceremony his lofty eminence the Ayatollah Taleqani, Dr Sanjabi, representatives of the Lawyers Association, the National Organization of University Staff, and people of various classes spoke.

More on Reopening of Schools

LD131256Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The public relations spokesman for the Advanced School of Nursing of the National Association for the Protection of Children reports that the school will resume its academic activities as of tomorrow.

Likewise, the dean of the College for Physical Culture and Sports Sciences has called on the college's council members and the academic staff to meet in his office at the olympic village at 1000 on Monday, 15 January, to study and discuss the preliminaries for reopening the college. The date for the reopening of this college will be announced later.

The Teachers Training School, too, following the statement issued by the National Organization of Iranian University Staff, will reopen tomorrow morning. The academic and administrative staff of the school have been asked to be at their place of employment as of tomorrow.

According to a dispatch from our correspondent in Reza'iyeh, as of this afternoon Reza'iyeh University will resume its academic activities. Reza'iyeh University will first carry out the delayed examinations, and later the necessary steps will be taken for beginning classes. A revision of Reza'iyeh University's syllabus and the dropping of useless subjects are among the university's new programs. Regarding the role to be played by the university cadres, the chancellor of Reza'yeh University said: The only role the protection department will have will be to keep an eye on the university installations.

Colleges, Institutes Reopen

LD142148Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Farabi University has resumed its educational activity and several colleges and institutes of high education are about to resume lectures. Following the resumption of the activity of universities and institutes of higher education throughout the country, the Pahlavi University of Shiraz, the Pars Higher Institute and the Karaj Higher Institute of Mathematics and Economic Management also reopened today. The Higher Institute of Clinical Work has called on the students and the staff to gather at the institute on Tuesday so that it may be reopened. It was also announced today that the High Institute of Statistics and Data Processing will resume work from tomorrow.

ANTIGOVERNMENT RALLY, MARCH HELD IN TABRIZ 14 JAN

LD142123Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Text] In relatively cold weather this morning thousands of university professors, students, bazaar businessmen and other sections of the population of Tabriz city, as well as families of political prisoners, staged a rally inside the Azarab-Adegan University campus while holding aloft pictures of eminent ayatollahs. The rally was addressed by a number of students, clergymen and families of political prisoners. Also, about noon today thousands of Tabriz citizens participated in a massive march held at Shams Tabrizi Street. The marchers, carrying pictures of eminent ayatollahs, demanded the immediate return of His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni.

AFP: PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION HELD IN TEHRAN 15 JAN

TA151010Y Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 15 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15 (AFP)--Tens of thousands of Iranians invaded the capital's bazaar district for several hours again today in a new flower-bedecked anti-shah demonstration called by the main opposition party, the lay centre-left National Front. Many tried to encourage watching soldiers to join them, planting red carnations in rifles and fastening portraits of the exiled Shi'ite Moslem leader, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, on army trucks.

Soldiers generally reacted with good humour, and some embraced demonstrators. The Bazaar district is a stronghold of the country's Shi'ite hierarchy.

The latest outburst of emotion came as new Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar won Senate approval for his government by 38 votes to one with two abstentions. The lower house of parliament was expected to vote tomorrow.

Tehran's main highways, meanwhile, remained choked with traffic as petrol supplies continued to increase following recent strike action.

Long queues also formed outside filling stations. Many people were thought to be stockpiling petrol and domestic fuel in anticipation of uncertainty to come.

Demonstrations in Provincial Cities

LD151200Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Peaceful demonstrations were staged today in a number of cities. Our correspondents report from Tabriz that late this morning a group of people assembled in Azarabadegan University to hear speeches by a number of clergy, students and families of political prisoners. In Maragheh in Azarbayjan, some peaceful demonstrations were also held, demanding the return of His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni to the country.

Other reports say that peaceful demonstrations were also staged in Yazd, Ardakan and Zanjan. According to reports, a peaceful march took place this morning in Rasht, led by the Rasht governor, the clergy and lawyers. Scattered demonstrations were also staged last night in (name indistinct] and Bandar Pahlavi which ended with the arrival of the police. Another report says that a farm was badly damaged in Bandar Pahlavi following a 5-hour fire which was eventually put out. The damage is reported to have been very extensive. Similar peaceful demonstrations were held in Kerman last night [remainder of sentence indistinct]. No one was hurt.

MUSLIM GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRIMM MURDER

NC141255Y Paris AFP in English 1244 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Jan 14 (AFP)--The "Movaheddin," a monotheist Muslim group that stresses its belief in one god, today claimed responsibility for the murder of U.S. oil executive Paul Grimm, 56, in Ahvaz last month.

In a communique published in the newspaper AYANDEGAN, the group said it would continue to fight against "traitors to the cause of the oil strike and against the army."

Mr Grimm and his Iranian assistant were shot dead as they stepped out of their car on Dec 23.

The "Mohaveddin" group also claimed responsibility for an armed attack against an Iranian Army barracks.

AFP: TUDEH PARTY CALLS FOR 'UNITED FRONT', ARMED STRUGGLE

TA142017Y Paris AFP in English 2008 GMT 14 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Paris, Jan 14 (AFP)--The Iranian communist Tudeh Party appealed for "armed struggle" to finish the shah's regime, in a communique which reached here today.

The statement, dated Jan 13 and delivered to the offices of AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, urged all Iranian opposition leaders to form a "united front for national liberation" in Iran. The front would be charged with "preparing and conducting the people's armed struggle" against the forces of the existing regime, the communique said.

The Tudeh Party also called on "ranking officers and patriotic soldiers" to form "clandestine cells" of the "united front."

KHOMEYNI WARNS AGAINST EXTERNAL PLOTS ON 'EVE' OF SHAH'S DEPARTURE

LD141725Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Text] His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, in a message addressed to the Iranian people today, has warned that a plot is being hatched outside the country by those seeking oil which is aimed at setting the nation against the army in order to achieve the desired result.

In this message, His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni notes: Dictated by divine and nationalist duty, I warn the noble nation and all the various military and security forces to neutralize one of the latest plots with alertness and moral courage. The people are dutybound to treat the military and security forces with kindness and, should hooligans attempt to attack them, to defend their brothers. He also called on the army and the security forces to treat the nation fraternally and, should hooligans attack the nation, the army and security forces should realize it is not the nation but the agents of aliens and those seeking oil who want to engage in sedition.

Any attack on government and military organizations that might take place on the eve of the shahanshah's trip has been described in this message as a plot by ill-wishers. It is stressed that the people should be alert to these plots.